

# 20 Days of Trouble

## Topic #19 – Arrogance

### **Textbook Def:**

Displaying superiority or self-importance; overbearing pride.\*

### **Real-Life Look:**

Tim's new boss rubbed him wrong. The first day's manager speech went something like this, "I'm thrilled to have you on board but you are here to do things my way, not yours. I've created all the processes and procedures and they're in place for a reason. They work. While we value your experience, stick to what you've been hired to do and we'll take care of the rest." Maybe this job wasn't going to work out after all? To some degree, Tim understood what the boss was trying to say, but the cocky way he presented it was completely offensive.

Marlene dreaded lunch with Natalie. Dreaded like the plague. She agreed to this meeting to appease her sister, and in the spirit of honesty, Marlene might actually get some business out of it, but she wasn't convinced it was worth the cost. Natalie was a total know-it-all. Regardless of the topic, she was knowledgeable on every facet of every subject. Marlene was certain that while Natalie was asking questions and in need of assistance, she would undoubtedly end up trying to tell Marlene what to do and how to run her business.

As Steve was heading south on the main drag in town, the souped-up white mustang roared around him. The drive was honking and flipping Steve off as he sped by. "You've got to be kidding me," Steve thought as he maintained five over the speed limit. "That's not enough for you buddy? And you had a problem that I came to a complete stop at the stop sign too?" Steve hated aggressive drivers. Where do they come off thinking they drive better than everyone else or that they have the right to change the rules of the road?

Sports stars, celebrities, religious zealots, and bigots... Arrogance is rampant in each of these people groups. Money, fame, and passionate beliefs *can lead* to feelings of elevated status, importance, and superiority. We see examples of this in the news, on social media, and even in our own personal circles.

## **Sword of the Spirit:**

*“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.” Romans 12:3*

*“Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows and by him deeds are weighted.” 1 Samuel 2:3*

*“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.”*  
Proverbs 27:1-2

## **Breaking It Down:**

There’s an air when in the presence of arrogance, isn’t there? You can just feel it. And it don’t feel so good. It’s also not a whole lot of fun.

No one enjoys feeling second-best, being talked down to, not having their opinions valued, or a one-sided conversation. My first thought is always, “Well, doesn’t seem you need me for anything, so why should I waste me time?” And I normally don’t. I’m the first to admit, I have no problem turning the other way in the grocery store and snubbing someone I find unpleasant to talk to.

This is why I believe arrogant people tend to have less meaningful conversations and fewer friends. Once family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. figure out what’s up, they often don’t go back for more.

My friend once got her ex-boyfriend a card that read, *“Someone like you should never get married because no one could love you as much as you love yourself.”* OUCH!

On the flip-side, there’s something to be said for having a sense of comradery with those you associate with. Do you enjoy feeling included, appreciated, valued, and participatory? I certainly do! And that’s why I not only seek out those types of people as friends, but also try to make sure I bring these qualities to the table for others as well.

Some time back I had a discussion with a family member who was concerned about constructing their resume. They wanted to accurately market themselves to secure a great job, and with an impressive portfolio, this wouldn’t be a difficult task, but they didn’t want to appear arrogant or cocky.

My response?

If you were arrogant or cocky, you wouldn't be worried about it. There's a huge difference between someone who is confident versus someone who is conceited and smug.

There's also something endearing and welcoming about a humble spirit, isn't there?

This same person has a successful business and is a caring and masterful leader, both inside of work and out. He shared the following verse with me, explaining that it is the basis for his servant leadership attitude:

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others." Phil 2:3

It's no wonder his business is thriving and he is adored by all.

For the arrogant individual, they *think* they've got it all because they believe they're 'all that and a bag of chips', but the truth is, they're usually missing out. Sadly, the most arrogant of people are actually the most broken, suffering from low self-esteem and a terrible lack of confidence. On the outside, they may display a strong, unwavering poise and coolness, but it's often nothing more than a cover for a very unhappy person on the inside.

### **The Benefit in Decluttering Trouble:**

As with all other desires of God's heart, when we act in obedience, we benefit. God asks us to:

- behave with humility
- value others before ourselves
- refrain from bragging
- avoid pridefulness

The benefits:

- The respect of your peers
- Adoration from your family
- Trustworthiness
- Meaningful relationships
- Being welcomed
- A peaceful and joyful spirit
- Walking in obedience

Practice an attitude of gratitude, a sweet spirit, and a servant's heart. Declutter arrogance and you'll find that you have a far better chance of enjoying the desired end result than when trying to force things or impress with an over-bearing and off-putting attitude.

"You can catch more bees with honey..."

Simple concept, difficult delivery, but not impossible and worth all the effort!

\*[www.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.thefreedictionary.com)

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