

# Superiority Complexes

## I. Introduction—1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 4:6

A. The root cause behind all the schisms in Corinth was their pride.

1. φυσιώω <sup>#5448</sup>: *to blow up, inflate* (φύσα: *pair of bellows*). fig. *to cause to have an exaggerated self-conception, puff up, make proud*. Used 7x in the NT: 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 4:6,18,19; 5:2; 8:1; 13:4; Col. 2:18.
2. φυσίωσις <sup>#5450</sup>: *swell-headedness, pride, conceit*. Hapax: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 12:20.

B. Loss of grace-orientation resulted in increased knowledge without love and produced arrogance (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 4:18,19; 5:2; 8:1).

## II. Principles of Pride<sup>1</sup>

A. Pride is one of “the seven deadly sins,” or more appropriately, sins that the Lord hates and are described as abominations leading the believer rapidly to the sin unto death (Prov. 6:16,17).

B. The fear of the Lord is the preemptive antidote to pride (Prov. 8:13).

C. Satan's fall was caused by pride, so we can call him the Father of Pride, and his followers his unholy children (Isa. 14:12-16).

D. Pride has its source in Satan, and severely perverts the believer's walk into a pursuit of jealousy and selfish ambition (Jms. 3:1,13-18).

E. A prideful heart convinces itself that it can get away with anything & everything (Ps. 10:2-6,11).

F. Pride gets away with nothing (Prov. 16:5,18,19).

G. Pride is specifically identified by God as sinful and worldly (Prov. 21:4,24).

H. The believer should understand that all promotion comes from God, not from his own inherent abilities (Ps. 75:4-7).

I. The wise believer avoids praising himself (Prov. 27:2).

J. The wise believer avoids proud or arrogant people (Mk. 12:38-40).

K. We should guard ourselves mentally from pride and its devices (Rom. 12:3,16).

L. God often brings suffering on the believer to prevent pride from forming in him (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 12:1-7).

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<sup>1</sup> Outline adapted from The Doctrine of Pride: [http://www.bibleteacher.org/Dm300\\_18.htm](http://www.bibleteacher.org/Dm300_18.htm)