



CAPITOL[™] COMMISSION

Reaching Capitol Communities for Christ[™]

Too Big for Your Britches

October 2014

Freddy Davis / 850-383-9756 / freddy.davis@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org/florida

Is pride a bad thing? Well, that all depends on what you mean by the word pride. This is not meant to parse the meaning of a word, but here we have a situation where this word has two very different meanings.

One definition has to do with the satisfaction people feel because of their own or another person's achievements. This might be the good feeling people get upon receiving a black belt in karate or when a child graduates college. This kind of pride is generally considered a positive thing.

But there is another definition which is not so positive. This one refers to inordinate self-esteem. Some of the other words used to describe this kind of pride include: arrogance, vanity, self-importance, hubris, conceit, self-adulation, narcissism, egotism, haughtiness, or snobbery. Usually this kind of pride emerges when people come to think that because of their social status or accomplishments in life, they are somehow better than other people. We sometimes call this "getting too big for one's britches." Most people who become prideful in this bad way didn't start out in that condition. In fact, many start out with very good motives and actions.

In the Bible, there is a perfect example of this. King Uzziah became King of Judah at age 16 when his father died. His father had set a good example for him and Uzziah became a very good and powerful king. In fact, he ruled the country for 52 years and led his people to power and prosperity.

Unfortunately, there came a day when he became prideful in the bad way. In Judah, in those days, the temple was still standing and it was the duty of the priests to do the temple ministry. But Uzziah got the idea that he was as good as any priest and decided to go worship God on his own terms. This is where we come to the account of his downfall. In 2 Chronicles 26:16, we read:

But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.

As a result of his arrogant pride, God struck him with leprosy. And in spite of his long tenure and great track record as a king, he was humiliated and died in that condition.

Having influence, or even working, in the halls of power can be a heady experience. It is a place where it is easy to pick up arrogant pride. Awareness of this possibility is critical because it almost never ends well. Take measures to keep your yourself tuned into God and he will help you keep your pride in check.



* Capitol Commission Florida is a non-partisan, non-political pastoral ministry to the political leaders, their families, their staffs, their political networks and lobbyists. The Capitol Commission State Director for Florida is Dr. Freddy Davis. Please feel free to make contact anytime there is any way we can serve you.