

*The Light - Junior Series*  
*Lesson 9*

*What is Your Mental Attitude?*



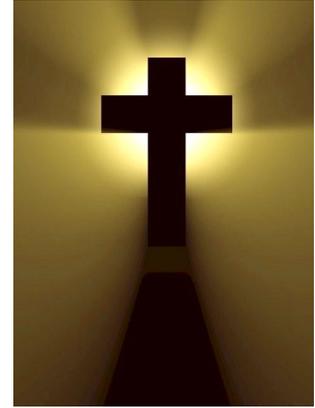
*December 1, 2010*

*Pro 23:7 "For as he thinks within himself, so he is."*

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

*(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."*  
*(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



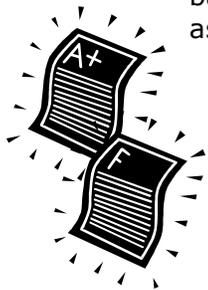
### Lesson

The Apostle Paul had to deal with lots of problems in the church at Corinth in **1 Corinthians**. Most of the problems but not all of them were the sins of the tongue like judging, gossiping, maligning, slandering, and criticism. They were one of the worst behaved churches around at that time and Paul had to come down pretty hard on them. To boil it down...self-centeredness of the old sin nature was causing the conflict and deep trouble in the Corinthian local assembly. These people were totally out of line. All pastors from every generation had to and still have to constantly be on guard for these things in their churches and stop it before it divides the believers in the local church. It is a serious problem. It can become a spiritual infection in believers! You see believers get their eyes off of Jesus and onto people and the problems start. All because of our old sin nature's temptations from inside us and the world outside us.

So how do we know if we have got the "spiritual infection" that so many members of the church at Corinth had? It's really simple, actually. It all comes down to one thing...MENTAL ATTITUDE. And the thing about mental attitude is really simple too, because there are really only two mental attitudes. And they are...HUMILITY and ARROGANCE.



We constantly talk about humility versus arrogance in class and you know a lot about it but I want you to know everything you can about it so you don't fall into the arrogant cosmic system of Satan who is the creator of arrogance. We don't want to be like him at all but it happens. We know how to get right back into fellowship though and that's the key...getting back and staying there as much as possible.



So let's take little test concerning your mental attitude. **PRO 23:7** "For as he thinks within himself, so he is." Let's see where you are okay? Arrogant thinking is the great enemy of your spiritual life. Satan is the author of arrogance, and he traps many believers into thinking his thoughts. We already know what humility is...right? It is the thinking of our Lord, Jesus Christ. So how can you tell when your mental attitude is arrogant? Here are a few tell-tale signs.

Take the test:

Do you think that your own wants and desires are more important than God's will for your life?

Do you NOT want to obey God's will for your life?

Is there something in your life that is more important to you than Bible doctrine?

Do you find yourself thinking you are better than other people around you?

Are you trying to prove something to others?

Do you spend time making excuses for your actions to yourself or to others?

Do you compete with other believers?

Is your success in what you do a result of your own actions and hard work?

Do you try to push your power onto others around you?

Do you think that you are so important, and that your family/school/church can't do without you?

Are you easily flattered by the praise of others?

Do you think you are the best?

If you answered "yes" to 5 or more of these questions, then you are without question a Corinthian type believer with a mental attitude of arrogance! Well, guess what? Welcome to the human race of the totally sick minded people! We all have arrogance at one time or other. **James 4:6 "GOD IS WAGES WAR AGAINST THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."**



This is the very reason God the Holy Spirit sets Himself up to do battle against the arrogance of your indwelling sin nature, but He gives grace to the humility of your new nature. Arrogance is the demonstration of evil, and it is the opposite of grace orientation (our fifth problem solving device). Humility is the opposite of arrogance. Humility is a mental attitude or state of mind which thinks of yourself as less important than others and happily obeys all authority.

Our Lord, Jesus Christ was our Pioneer of true humility in His First Advent...even as a very young boy. He gave in completely to the authority and the will of God the Father, to the point of death. **Philip 2:3 "Do nothing motivated by contentiousness or ambitious pride (arrogance), but with humility of mind (by means of grace orientation) let each of you keep on considering one another as more important than himself; do not merely be regarding your own personal interests, but also for the personal interests of others. Keep on thinking this (doctrine) within yourselves which was also resident in Christ Jesus, who, although He preexisted (in eternity past) in the essence (nature) of God, did not think equality with God something to be taken, but He deprived Himself of the proper function of deity (God) when He had received the form of a servant and was born in the likeness of men. In fact, although having being discovered in outward appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of spiritual death that is the death of the cross (for our sakes)."** Jesus Christ is equal to God the Father in His deity, yet in perfect humility He put Himself under God's complete authority and plan.

No believer can think like Jesus Christ and at the same time be arrogant. Bible doctrine is the thinking of Jesus Christ. Learning and applying the Word of God is the medicine for arrogance.

Here's a test for you from Philippians 2: do you regard others in this local church as more important than yourself?

I hope you think "yes." And here's a great challenge for you to live in grace orientation in **Col 3:12-13. "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."** This, my wonderful children, is humility! This is what I want for you always. This is the vessel (that God made) of mercy to others.

Let's read what Jesus teaches about all of this in [Luke 7:36-47](#). This is a woman believer, a branch, of the Vine (our Lord, Jesus Christ) who freely has received grace (salvation from Jesus...forgiveness for her sins), and freely gives grace to others (in thanksgiving). Open your eyes to how needy you are, and how much you have been given by the Lord! The only greatness that matters in life is to have great capacity for giving to others and receiving grace from God.



So the point, kids, is that grace orientation and humility are two sides of the same coin. No arrogance on this coin!!! [James 4:6](#) "But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, 'GOD MAKES WAR AGAINST THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.'"

Close in prayer

*Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, August 26, 2010  
Lighthouse Bible Church*

