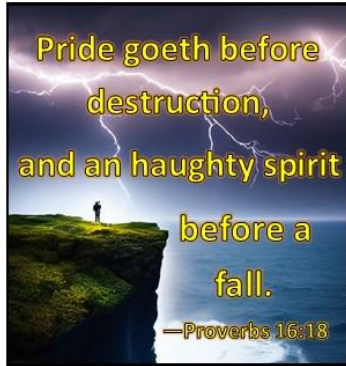


Pride Goeth Before Destruction

By Alfred B. Davis, 3 June 2023



Welcome to the month of June. Or, as the woke left would have it, Pride Month.

Pride Month, also known as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Pride Month, keeps growing bigger and more inclusive every year. Originally it was celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," in the United States on the last Sunday in June, commemorating the 1969 Stonewall riots when patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn, a well-known gay bar in New York City, began an uprising to resist police harassment and persecution of LGBT individuals. The Stonewall riots are considered the beginning of a movement to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices against LGBT Americans. Pride Day soon became Pride Week, then Pride Month, and continues to expand to include all manner of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, questioning, and whatever other abnormal or sexually deviant alphabet groups that the Left can dream up.

This reminds me of Romans 1:24-32, where Paul wrote:

"²⁴Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ²⁸And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; ²⁹Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³²Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Not only do they have pleasure in them that do them, they want you and me to have pleasure in them that do them as well.

Consider, for example, the Riddel Scale of Homophobia:

HOMOPHOBIC LEVELS OF ATTITUDE

1. Repulsion
2. Pity
3. Tolerance

4. Acceptance

POSITIVE LEVELS OF ATTITUDE

5. Support

6. Admiration

7. Appreciation

8. Nurturance

The Riddel Scale, originally developed by Dr. Dorothy Riddel in the early 1970's, is widely used by a variety of institutions, companies, and organizations to gauge discriminatory, homophobic, and prejudicial attitudes regarding the LGBTQ+ community. As such, it overinflates claims of homophobia by ranking attitudes, such as tolerance and acceptance, that most people would not consider homophobic as homophobic. Consequently, if you are a "live and let live" or "to each his own" kind of person, you are still considered homophobic. It is only when you reach the level of support that you are no longer considered homophobic, but just barely.

So, why do we need a whole month to celebrate immorality and sexual deviancy?

Well, the answer lies in the word *PRIDE*. Not pride in the sense of taking satisfaction in a job well done or in the accomplishments of others, but, rather, in the narcissistic selfishness of the self-centered. This exaggerated sense of self is because the center of *PRIDE* is *I*. When *I*, meaning self, becomes the center of our life, we begin to be lifted up with *PRIDE*.

When self becomes more important than others, and certainly more important than God, it leads to sin, which is the breaking of God's Law. And, incidentally, the center of *SIN*, like *PRIDE* is also *I*. Jesus illustrated this in Matthew 22:37-40 where He is challenged by a lawyer of the Pharisees as to what the greatest of the commandments is:

³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

In His response, Jesus condensed the entirety of the Ten Commandments into two. The first, "*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,*" sums up the first table of the Commandments, the four dealing with our relationship with God:

- 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*
- 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*
- 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*
- 4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor*

thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
(Exodus 20:3-11)

The second, “*Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself,*” sums up the second table of the Commandments, the six dealing with our relationships with each other:

5. *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*
6. *Thou shalt not kill.*
7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
8. *Thou shalt not steal.*
9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*
10. *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*
(Exodus 20:12-17)

The heart lifted up with pride says instead that the greatest commandment is, “*I will love myself with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my mind,*” and that the second is “*I shalt love my neighbour less than myself.*” And that, of course, leads to the complete rejection of the Ten Commandments and the subversion of all the law and the prophets.

Consider, for example, the wretched case of the Devil. The Bible tells us in Ezekiel 28:14-15:

“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

Iniquity, which starts with *I*, is another word for sin. In Isaiah 14:12-15, the Bible details the sin that led to the Devil’s downfall:

*“¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴**I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High. ¹⁵Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”*
(Emphasis added)

Notice the emphasis on self. Five times Lucifer says, “*I will.*” Five times Lucifer elevates himself above God and all others. Five times Lucifer reveals the iniquity that was found in his heart: PRIDE.

When we develop eye trouble, we cannot see the world around us clearly. When we develop **I** trouble we cannot see God and ourselves clearly. And, when we cannot see God and ourselves clearly, that leads to iniquity, putting ourselves (**I**) in the center of sin and pride. And when we, like Lucifer, can no longer see God clearly, we also stumble and fall.

The solution? Admit your sin of pride and ask God to open your spiritual eyes so that you can see clearly. As He said in Revelation 3:17-19:

*¹⁷Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; **and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.** ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”*

(Emphasis added)

And when God opens your eyes to your sinful condition, *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you (1 Peter 5:6-7).”* Because otherwise, *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18).”*

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