

We should all be thankful for what our father's and mothers have done for us, particularly if they are Christian parents. But even if they are not Christians the probabilities are that they have done much for us for which we should be thankful. But our relationship to our parents, our relationship to any other human being must be far inferior to our relation to the Lord Jesus.

Our verses in John gives us the third point which is called the pride of life. I believe we find that paralleled, though it is not immediately obvious, in the third temptation of Christ in Luke 4. We read there, v.9, he brought him to Jerusalem and set him on a pinnacle of the temple and said to him, If thou be the Son of God cast thyself down from hence, for it is written He shall give his angels charge over thee and in their hands they shall bear thee up lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus answered and said, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

If we get into a situation of great danger through no fault of our own, we have a right to look to God to protect us. Unless it be his will for some reason that we suffer anyway. But we have no right to test the Lord by entering dangers merely for the purpose of testing Him. Why do we do this? It is the pride of life. Imagine Jesus throwing himself down from the temple and the people looking up and saying, Look here, just look, isn't that wonderful. He's jumped from all that distance and the angels hold him. How marvelous it would be in appealing to human pride.

1 This is probably one of the most deeply seated emotions in every one of us. This also is a place where we can go to one extreme or to the other. There is perhaps more harm done in Christian work through people being carried away from pride controlling them than anything else. Everyone of us has within us that longing for recognition. That longing for people to think well of us. And just when we think we have it pressed so we don't care, we can abound or be abased, we don't care. Just when we think we've reached that point, someone says something real nice and we feel happy all over.

It is deep within us, everyone of us--this longing for recognition. This longing for human recognition. Well, it has its proper place, but when it becomes primary it becomes very very harmful and it becomes something which every Christian worker needs to look out for very very carefully.

I was president of another seminary for many years, and time and again when something would be discussed in the director's meeting, I would say, Anytime you can find somebody who can do my job better than I can do it, please get them and let me go. The institution is far more important than what I'm doing. It is difficult for us to get that attitude, very difficult. But it is the attitude God wants each of us to have. We want to abase our human pride and we have a big task in doing it. But unfortunately in recent years in America there has come up a difference from the past. Some think it has affected many parts of our society.