

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

DO NOT BE CONCEITED

Romans 12:16 "Do not be conceited."

Pride and conceit are related. While pride can be healthy it can quickly lead to conceit. Pride is satisfaction derived from personal achievements and accomplishments. Conceit is excessive pride.

Excessive pride is a sin like so many other excesses. It is manifested by trust in yourself, your abilities, and your accomplishments instead of recognizing that you are totally dependent upon God for all you need for your temporal (earthly) and spiritual life. The Psalmist says, "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves." (Psalm 127:1) As a Christian you pray to your heavenly Father, "Give (me) this day my daily bread" (4th Petition of the Lord's Prayer) as opposed to depending upon yourself.

Solomon wrote, "Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them." (Proverbs 26:12) Jesus taught, "The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Matthew 23:11-12) St. Paul wrote in Philippians 2:3-4, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Luke wrote in Acts 4:32 "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had."

The Scriptures say, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6) God has called you to love Him above all things. He has also called you to love your neighbor as you love yourself. (Matthew 22:38-39) This is what it means to not think highly of yourself.

Prayer: Grant me Lord a humble heart and mind that I not think highly of myself. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord of all nations, grant me grace To love all people, ev'ry race;
And in each person may I see My kindred, loved, redeemed by Thee.

Break down the wall that would divide Thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side
My neighbor's good let me pursue; Let Christian love bind warm and true.

Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred By loveless act and thoughtless word
Make me to see the wrong I do Will grieve my wounded Lord anew.

Give me Thy courage Lord, to speak Whenever strong oppress the weak,
Should I myself the victim be, Help me forgive, remembr'ring Thee.

With Thine own love may I be filled And by Thy Holy Spirit willed,
That all I touch, where'er I be, May be divinely touched by thee.
(LSB 844)