

SERMON OUTLINE

GENESIS 11:1–9 “PRIDE CLIMBS TO HEAVEN, BUT GRACE BRINGS HEAVEN DOWN”

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INTRODUCTION

- Pride is like a tick: hidden, parasitic, and spiritually deadly.
- *Big Idea:* **Pride climbs to heaven, but grace brings heaven down.**

I. THE SHAPE OF PRIDE

(Genesis 10:8–10; 11:1–4)

Pride manifests itself in three ways: through our **affections**, **perceptions**, and **rebellions**.

1. **Pride Revealed by Our Affections** – “Come, let us build *for ourselves*.”
 - They desired to glorify themselves, not God.
 - Pride shows up in our loves and desires.
 - Examples:
 - The pride of leadership – glorying in success.
 - The pride of position – comparing our lot to others.
 - The pride of piety – finding satisfaction in our own godliness.
 - *John 3:30* – “*He must increase, but I must decrease.*”
2. **Pride Revealed by Other’s Perceptions** – “Let us make a name for ourselves.”
 - Pride seeks to be *seen* and admired.
 - Examples:
 - Pride of honor – basking in others’ praise.
 - Pride of clothing – dressing for attention.
 - Pride of children – caring more about appearance than godliness.
 - Pride of learning – boasting in knowledge.
 - *Isaiah 53:3* – “*He was despised and rejected by men...*”
3. **Pride Revealed by Our Rebellions** – “Lest we be dispersed...”
 - God commanded Noah’s sons to “fill the earth.”
 - Nimrod refused. He wanted control, not submission.
 - Every rebellion against God’s Word is pride.
 - *Genesis 9:1* – *God’s original command to spread and fill the earth.*

II. THE INSANITY OF PRIDE

(Genesis 11:5–7)

1. **“And the Lord Came Down”**
 - The builders labored to climb to heaven; God simply *came down*.
 - Pride always overestimates man and underestimates God.
2. **God Confused Their Language**
 - One word from God shattered their unity and ended Nimrod’s empire.
 - The very thing they used for rebellion—language—God used to undo them.
3. **Perspective on Pride**
 - When we behold the glory of Christ enthroned in heaven, pride looks insane.
 - Pride was Satan’s downfall—his heart swelled until he warred against God.

III. THE SOLUTION TO PRIDE

(Genesis 11:8–9)

1. **God’s Restraining Grace**
 - God *restrains* human evil by confusing the language.
 - Even judgment here is mercy—protecting mankind from deeper ruin.
2. **God’s Redirecting Grace**
 - God spreads the people across the earth, accomplishing His original purpose.
 - *Genesis 9:1* – God’s command fulfilled despite man’s rebellion.
 - Even our failures can be redirected by grace when we surrender to Him.
3. **God’s Redeeming Grace**
 - *Genesis 11:5* – “*And the Lord came down.*”
 - This points forward to the greatest “coming down” in Christ Jesus.
 - Christ conquered pride through humility—by taking the form of a servant.
 - *Acts 2:5–6* – At Pentecost, God reverses Babel: the nations hear one Gospel.
 - *Pride is exhausting because it is never satisfied.* Grace is restful because it is freely given.

CONCLUSION

- Examine your heart: where might pride still be building its towers?
- The cure is not more effort—but deeper surrender to Jesus Christ, the humble Savior who “came down” to save us.

AT-HOME REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Where do I see “the tick of pride” attaching itself to my heart—my affections, my reputation, or my obedience?
2. Do I desire to *appear* godly more than I desire to *be* godly?
3. When was the last time I sincerely repented of pride in my prayers before God?
4. In what ways has God’s restraining or redirecting grace protected me from the consequences of my own pride?
5. How can remembering that “Christ came down” reshape how I respond to moments of pride this week?