

A walk with Mr O (53)

We're in Danger!

So, Mr O, we're in danger in 2026. Right now, it's a dangerous world to live in, isn't it? In your opinion, what is currently the greatest threat facing Christians?

Pride.

As always, you never give me the answer I expect! But when you say 'pride' do you mean LGBT movement, or are you using the dictionary meaning of the word?

Neither; I am using the word as it is found in the Bible.

So, biblically, what exactly is pride?

It is looking in the mirror when I don't need to. It is going through life endlessly taking selfies. It is thinking about myself more than I think about God and valuing myself more than I value others. It is the persuasive voice inside which whispers, 'What really matters is me.'

So, what makes you say that pride is the number one threat facing us this year?

'Me, me, me' turned a beautiful archangel into the devil, and that devil then sowed pride in the hearts of our first parents. It has been with us ever since. Pride is uniquely Satanic. Every sin, and every ruinous consequence of sin, finds its source in the demonic 'me, me, me' music of pride. Not only so, but 'everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord'. Pride disgusts him. He opposes proud people. The only people he enjoys are humble people.

Could you put some flesh on all this please, Mr O? What are some concrete examples of how pride affects Christians today?

We all find it easy to be pleased with ourselves – our looks, our skills, our achievements, our influence, our homes, our possessions, our families, our circle of friends, the places we visited, and the experiences we've had.

Quite often we are even proud of our spiritual progress and abilities and of the fact that we are sometimes a blessing to others.

Yes, I get it. And the list could go on and on. And so, the Lord doesn't get the credit due to him, and people made in his image are less important to us than we are to ourselves.

Sadly, that is not all. Every time we despise advice, exaggerate a story, take offence, or are unnecessarily argumentative, pride is at work. The sin that ruined angels now ruins individuals, families, friendships, churches. And nations. There is nothing like it. It is unadulterated wickedness.

Could you say a bit more about how pride ruins churches.

Many churches are more concerned about pleasing their people than they are about pleasing the Lord. As a result, these churches resemble less and less the churches of the New Testament, because they are making up their own religion as they go along. The Bible calls this idolatry.

Anything else?

In all our churches there are people who are jealous of each other, who fall out with each other, who speak evil of each other, and who even avoid each other. Pride kills love, forgiveness, patience, and unity. It is much more dangerous than persecution.

So, what can we do about it?

We can confess to the Lord that we are guilty of great evil. Such confession of sin should be an important part of our Sunday services – as long as the minister then takes up his Bible and assures every repentant person present that the Saviour's person and work guarantee their complete forgiveness and restoration. Heaven sings when sinners look away themselves to Christ!

And what can we do about our individual pride.

A good starting point would be to learn Philippians 2;5-11 by heart and to recite it every day. Our Lord Jesus Christ went to the lowest place. Why because? That is our place, and it is the only place where he promises to meet us.

To finish, what can a preacher like you do to challenge his pride?

Before he preaches he can pray a prayer which countless men have used through the years: 'When telling Thy salvation free, let all absorbing thoughts of Thee my heart and mind engross. And when all hearts are bowed and stirred beneath the power of Thy word, hide me behind the cross.'
