

# 21.

## *Never be conceited.*

Romans 12:16d

This phrase can also be translated, “*Do not be wise in your own eyes.*” It is possible to possess high intelligence and use it to belittle others. This is acting with conceit. When someone is indifferent to the plight of others while being quick to tell them of their own achievements — they are being *conceited*. To build a covenant community of believers, it is essential that we learn how to never be conceited.

1. How does Proverbs 27:2 challenge the conceited and how might we put this into practice?

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2. What does Philippians 2:3 command followers of Christ to do, and why might this be difficult for some??

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3. What is the positive instruction *and* also the negative instruction found in Philippians 2:4?

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Seeking the praise of others puts someone at greater risk of being *conceited*.

4. Why?

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5. How does Proverbs 9:9 give advice which deals with one of the aspects of being conceited?

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Being conceited involves over-estimating your own abilities.

6. Which is better, to have others *under-estimate* you, or to have them *over-estimate* you? Discuss.

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In Galatians 5:26, the Apostle warns believers not to (i) become conceited, which leads to (ii) provoking one another, which leads to (iii) envying one another. The Greek word for *provoking* in this context means *to be irritating*. Conceited people are irritating people!

7. In what four ways would a conceited person have to change to cease being conceited?

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8. What effect would such transformed people then have within a local church community?

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May God help each of us not to be conceited and to have the grace to persist in cooperating with the Holy Spirit's transformation of our lives.

*Amen.*