

Do Not Be Over-righteous

God warns that over-righteousness will lead to self-destruction - Eccl 7:16 Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise — why destroy yourself?

Over-righteousness is measuring righteousness with self NOT God - Luke 18:9-14 - 9 To some who were **confident of their own righteousness** and **looked down on everybody else**, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "**I TELL YOU THAT THIS MAN, RATHER THAN THE OTHER, WENT HOME JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD.** For everyone who EXALTS HIMSELF will be humbled, and he who HUMBLER HIMSELF will be exalted."

Over-righteousness will boldly push wrong ministries - Matt 16:21-23 - 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22 Peter took him aside and **began to rebuke him**. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; YOU DO NOT HAVE IN MIND THE THINGS OF GOD, BUT THE THINGS OF MEN."

Over-righteousness will cloud our relationship with Christ - John 13:6-9 - 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "**No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet.**" Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Over-righteousness will make us irreverent to God - Rom 9:20-21 - 20 But **WHO ARE YOU, O MAN, TO TALK BACK TO GOD?** "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" 21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Over-righteousness actually alters true righteousness and places us in danger - Matt 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The over-righteous dishonor God - Rom 2:19-24 -19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 **you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?** 24 As it is written: "**GOD'S NAME IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU.**"

The over-righteous foolishly use self as the standard - 2 Cor 10:12-13 - 12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. **When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.** 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you.

Those that use corrupt standards, will have corrupt standards used on them - Matt 7:1-2 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, YOU WILL be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

How to recognize and eliminate Over-righteousness

When we are working on LOOKING righteous instead of BEING righteous - Matt 23:28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Building knowledge without love - 1 Cor 8:1-3 - Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But the man who loves God is known by God.

Follow Jesus lead by doing ONLY what God says

John 5:30 **By myself I can do nothing; I judge ONLY AS I HEAR**, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 12:48-50 - 48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; THAT VERY WORD WHICH I SPOKE WILL CONDEMN HIM AT THE LAST DAY. 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."