

also very arrogant toward Mordecai when Haman suggested to build the gallows at least 75 feet high for all to see the man that would not bow down to Haman. Haman wanted to make sure that all the people in the city would see Mordecai's death so as to remind the people of the consequences for disobeying Haman's position. Ironically, these very gallows would allow everyone to see Haman swing from the very gallows he had made for Mordecai. In **I Cor. 12:12**, the apostle Paul compares the body of Christians to the human body. *"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have a greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the obey, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all*

have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way (Love)." When Paul uses the human body as an example, he is showing the importance of each member of the church. We are all important to the Lord. In other words, we are "one" in the body of the Lord. It's not all about me, but we. If I consider myself better than those I sit beside in church, am I taking away part of the body? In other words, when we act this way are we not less effective in being a family with Christ as our Lord and Savior and with God as our heavenly Father? As Christians, we should not look down on those that we deem as unimportant, and we should not be jealous of others who have been given certain gifts or talents to serve our Lord and savior. All of us in the body of the Lord (the church) should use our talents or gifts to encourage others and build up one another so that each of us may use the talent God has given them, so that we may be one. If we don't work together as one, the body of the Lord will be less effective and we will not get the work of the Lord done. A good example of in-fighting in a family can be seen in Genesis 4, when Cain slew his brother Abel. For Abel did what was right before God and Cain his brother did not. Cain was jealous of his brother, Abel, because he was righteous before God, and followed after God. Now I know, or I hope, that nobody will have this type of hatred for his brother in Christ, however, when we fight among ourselves do we not murder each other with our words or attitude from the heart? (I John 3:11-20). When we fight among ourselves we are in danger of losing our salvation because we will be judged before God in the last days as seen in **Rev. 21:8**: *"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."* People this is a serious issue, we will be judged according to our hearts and our actions. If we cannot learn to love each other in this world how can we think we can love each other in Heaven? Think about it, next time we get an arrogant attitude centered on our pride, we will stand or fall; it depends on your heart. You make your choice.

-Bill Davis

Faithful Sayings

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
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Folly of Pride & Arrogance

How often, as we go through life, do we tend to get the big head that we are a lot better than the next person we live around? Many times on the TV we will see certain sports figures get themselves into a world of problems when they think they are above the law by their reckless life and arrogant attitude toward those they come into contact with. On the news we hear about certain politicians who will do jail time or are removed from their position due to their pride and belief that they are the law and that they can do whatever pleases them.

Even in the church today we see some who will look down on those who are not so blessed with a good paying job or a nice home to live in. Some have a tendency to look down on those who, by their standards, are not good enough to be in their presence because they don't work as hard as they do or live in the better side of town. You know, the more I read the Bible the more I learn that people are the same no matter what time in history they lived in. In the book of Ester, we can read of such a man who when he got elevated to a position by the king's

side got a very arrogant attitude. He was just loaded with pride because he wanted others around him to bow down and give him the honor he thought he deserved. In Esther Ch.3 we read about a man called Haman who was elevated to sit by the king, an honor higher than that of all the other nobles. All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman for the king had commanded this concerning him. But there was one man who would not kneel down or pay Haman this honor and this man was Mordecai. To make matters worse Mordecai was a Jew, which made Haman's anger grow even worse. Now Haman enjoyed this power and the prestige that he received from this new position, but Haman was enraged when Mordecai would not bow down to him. Today as Christians, do we not act like Haman did with Mordecai when those around us don't give us the special honor that we think we deserve because we have a high paying job or several degrees on our walls? Do we have an attitude that we are better than others because we see ourselves as more righteous or more knowledgeable in the Bible than others? Are we like Haman and don't even

know it? When those around us don't give us special honor, do we let hatred develop in our hearts? Will we tend to talk about certain ones or display a hateful attitude toward them when we see them? You see, hatred and bitterness are like weeds in our lives with long roots that will grow in our heart and will corrupt and consume our lives where we can be neither fruitful nor productive in God's kingdom. When Haman let hatred develop, he became consumed with his hate toward Mordecai so that he could not even enjoy the special honor of being beside the king. In **Hebrews 12:15** we are warned not to let any bitter root grow up so as to cause us trouble and defile many. *"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;"*

When we as Christians let our hatred grow in our hearts it will make us very bitter and it will come back to hurt us or our family if we don't remove the bitter attitude from within us. In the end, when Haman let his heart grow

very bitter it not only destroyed his life and all that he had worked for, but it also destroyed his family. Haman's hatred also sought opportunity to destroy an entire people. Through God's providential care and the courage of Mordecai and Ester, God's people were saved.

Haman put himself first. When the king asked what should be done for one that the king desired to honor, we are told, *"Now Haman thought in his heart, to whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?" (Esther 6:6)* Little did Haman realize that his grand plans would be to honor Mordecai, the very one whom he hated. **Esther 6:12:** *"Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. when Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, 'If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.'"* Haman brought about his own destruction with his evil plans. After Esther exposed him for who he really

was Haman suffered the consequences of his choices. **Esther 7:9:** *"Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, 'Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman.' Then the king said, 'Hang him on it!' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided."'*

When we let our hatred grow for someone to the point that the mere mention of their name provokes angry thoughts, this is nothing more than bitterness and this is known as sin. If we ignore our bitterness and try to hide our bitterness from others or when we make excuses for our behavior it will come back time after time and will make the matters in our life worse. When we let our anger or hatred grow, it will have a negative effect on those around us, especially our own family. When they hear us talking bad about someone then they themselves will think badly about that person, even when that person you have hatred for has done nothing wrong to your family. You see, Haman's family and his friends