

## Ephesians 2013-081 and 082

### Context Review:

(d) Spiritual skills and arrogance skills cannot coexist in God's plan. Either you function under the spiritual skills and advance to maturity, glorifying God, or you fail completely by being involved in the arrogance skills. When the arrogance skills are operational, the spiritual skills are defunct. When the spiritual skills are operational, the arrogance skills are defunct.

(e) All distractions and deviations from the protocol plan of God are justified through the function of the arrogance skills. Self-justification or crusader arrogance and Christian activism result in self-deception. Self-deception leads to denial, total divorcement from the reality of Bible doctrine and the evils of Christian activism as well as other forms of legalism. Self-absorption rejects and reacts to any suggestion that Christian activism is evil.

(3) Self-righteous arrogance, which is also crusader arrogance, results in self-justification. The arrogant believer is constantly justifying self. Self-justification enters into the defense mechanism of denial and the use of projection. Part of self-deception is being so divorced from reality that you take your own flaws and superimpose them on those around you. It is described in [1 Jn 1:8](#), "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us." [Gal 6:7](#), "Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever a person sows, this he will also reap." When the believer sows in the arrogance skills, he reaps the most miserable life and becomes a psycho-believer. [Hos 8:7](#), "He sows to the wind and reaps the whirlwind." [Gal 6:3](#), "If anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself and the truth is not in him."

Self-deception results in self-absorption. Self-absorption is found in [Jam 3:14](#), "But if you have bitter jealousy and strife in your heart, be not arrogant, and stop lying against the truth."

2. The conflict between grace and arrogance is stated throughout Scripture.

a. [Jam 4:6](#), "But He keeps on giving greater grace. Therefore it [[Prov 3:34](#)] says, "God makes war against the arrogant [believer], but gives grace to the humble [believer]." God cannot give grace to the arrogant believer.

- b. [Jam 4:14-15](#), “Yet you do not know what kind of life is yours tomorrow. You are just a vapor trail that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. But as it is, you boast [in your arrogance], ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.’” Believers are designed to have maximum historical impact, but the arrogant believer has no impact at all.
- c. [Jer 9:23-24](#), “Thus says the Lord, ‘Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the powerful man boast in his power, let not the rich man boast in his riches. Let him who boasts, boast this, that he understands and knows Me. That I am the Lord who exercises grace, justice, and righteousness on the earth.’”
- d. [2 Cor 10:17-18](#), “But he who boasts, let him glory in the Lord. Not he who commends himself is approved, but whom God promotes.” Boasting in a bad sense is arrogance. Boasting in a good sense is the spiritual skills. God never promotes apart from His grace policy related to spiritual capacity righteousness. God promotes those who are grace oriented. God promotes on the basis of consistent function of the spiritual skills. Promotion, then, is a matter of doctrinal inculcation and grace orientation.
- e. [1 Pet 5:5b-6](#), “...and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God makes war against the arrogant believer, but He gives grace to the humble believer. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may promote you at the proper time.”

New Material:

f. The antidote to the conflict between grace and arrogance is given in [2 Pet 1:2-4](#), “May grace and peace be multiplied to you for your benefit by means of epignosis doctrine about God and Jesus our Lord, because His divine power has given to us for our benefit everything with reference to life even your spiritual life through the epignosis knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and virtue, through which things He has given to us for our benefit His most valuable and great promises, that through these things you might become partners in the divine endowment, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.” The multiplication of grace refers to the divine initiative of antecedent and eschatological grace. The final objective in the fulfillment of the spiritual life is the glory of God, and the

means of getting there is the virtue of every believer, and that virtue is the function of the three spiritual skills. The arrogance skills wipe all of this out. Becoming partners in the divine endowment means equal privileges and equal opportunity for the function of the spiritual life and glorifying God. It also means equal dividends in the three spiritual skills for the execution of the protocol plan of God.

g. [Rom 12:2-3](#), “And stop being conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renovation of your thinking, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is absolute good and well pleasing and the mature. For I say through the grace which has been given to me to everyone who is among you stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think; but think in terms of sanity, as God has assigned to each believer a standard of thinking from doctrine.” Being conformed to this world is the thinking of the arrogance skills. The arrogance skills conform to this world. The spiritual skills are the renovation of your thinking.

(1) [Prov 16:18](#), “Arrogance precedes destruction, and before a fall there is a lifestyle of arrogance.”

(2) [Prov 29:23](#), “A persons arrogance will bring him low, but a lifestyle of humility will attain honor.”

(3) [Prov 11:2](#), “When arrogance comes, then comes dishonor.”

(4) [Prov 13:10](#), “Through arrogance comes strife, but wisdom is with those who receive instruction.”

h. [2 Tim 3:2-7](#), “For mankind [believers] will be lovers of self [self-absorption], lovers of money, boastful and arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful [failure to attain spiritual capacity righteousness], without a sense of responsibility, devoid of natural affection, implacable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good [without spiritual values], treacherous, thoughtless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a superficial form of the spiritual life [legalism], but they themselves have repudiated its power; in fact avoid such persons as these. For among them are those who creep into households and seduce silly women who are loaded down with sins, led on by their multifarious lusts, always learning and never able to come to an epignosis knowledge of the truth.”

(1) The inevitable result of staying with the arrogance skills described in this passage is the destruction of your spiritual life.

(2) Believers living in the arrogance skills have repudiated the power of the spiritual life, i.e., the spiritual skills, which have been given to them for the execution of the spiritual life. They have rejected their very own portfolio of invisible assets. Every believer who rejects the fact of his own spiritual life provided for him in eternity past does not develop the spiritual skills. Every disaster becomes a warning to him that he is not living the spiritual life.

(3) We are to avoid such believers as these because often their influence through friendship or through some relationship makes it possible for them to influence a person away from the spiritual skills. They can be a very dangerous influence on your life.

(4) "Those who creep into households and seduce silly women" describes the trend toward antinomianism, which is motivated by sex, drugs, criminal lust, etc.

(5) Once you are involved in the arrogance skills, you may come and listen to the teaching of doctrine, but you are never able to come to an epignosis knowledge of doctrine. Instead, you are always learning something related to the arrogance skills, such as psychology.

3. Illustrations of how these arrogance skills work in daily life.

a. Unrealistic expectation is an area where the arrogance skills function.

(1) Very few people are loved the way they want to be loved or treated the way they want to be treated. When this attitude is combined with the arrogance of unhappiness or subjective preoccupation with self, the result is the arrogance of subjectivity. Out of this comes the fragmented life, which is a totally unhappy life.

(2) The fragmented believer is not loved the way he wants to be loved and is frustrated and does not have the solution to the misery and frustration which comes with the use of these arrogance skills. The believer who does not translate the way he wants to be treated is unstable and often jumps from church to church, idea to idea, and from social group to social group.

(3) Unrealistic expectation is self-deception, in which the believer seeks to solve his frustrations by adding arrogance to arrogance. This ends up in the arrogance preoccupation with self, which is self-absorption. Unrealistic expectation is self-absorption. Unrealistic expectation never takes responsibility

for one's own bad decisions from a position of weakness. Blaming others (or projection) results in the usual consequences related to arrogance: jealousy, bitterness, hatred, vindictiveness, implacability, self-pity, revenge, slander, maligning, gossip, trying to make others feel guilty so you can manipulate them. The believer fragments his own life, but he always blames others for his miserable state.

(4) The arrogance of subjectivity is constantly trying to change other people to conform to one's own unrealistic expectation. This is the arrogance of manipulation. That ends up in self-absorption. Self-absorption is unrealistic expectation, never realizing that you can only change yourself, you can never change anyone else.

(5) The arrogance of unhappiness or subjective preoccupation with self is associated with unrealistic expectation. Unrealistic expectation intensifies the problems of the spiritual life to the point of no return apart from the problem solving devices. The fragmented believer, involved in subjective preoccupation with self, assumes that certain things will bring happiness, such as, a friendly church. People, money, prosperity, and success cannot make you happy, only perception of Bible doctrine can produce the sharing of the happiness of God.

(6) Self-deception is the great problem of the so-called "free-spirit." This person recognizes freedom without responsibility and freedom without authority, which is anarchy. This person is always looking for happiness. But the more the free-spirit seeks happiness, the more happiness eludes him. You are not happy because you are free to do what you want to do. You are free to use your own volition to destroy your own spiritual life and become frustrated, unhappy, and miserable. The free-spirit associates happiness with some form of stimulation, excitement, and self-indulgence. The free-spirit can never find happiness, because he seeks it in success, power, money, approbation, fame, pleasure, health, sex, romance, friendship, marriage, control of others. The problem of the free-spirit can only be resolved by understanding and utilizing the spiritual skills.

b. Iconoclastic arrogance is a good illustration.

(1) Iconoclastic arrogance is subjective preoccupation with other people resulting from disenchantment, disillusion, or the feet of clay syndrome. Iconoclastic arrogance creates an idol

through excessive or misguided admiration or love for another person.

(2) When the iconoclastic believer discovers some sin or flaw in the object of their love, they become disenchanted and react. The reaction is part of the arrogance skills. Putting someone on a pedestal is part of those arrogance skills.

(3) The believer with iconoclastic arrogance is angry at self, but then must justify self, and finally must deceive oneself about the truth of the matter. He must retain that humanized dignity he has established within himself. Therefore, he has to be right no matter what the facts of the case may be.

(4) With the arrogance skills you can only put someone else on a high pedestal for a short time or you can put yourself on a pedestal. When you discover the feet of clay of the person you have put on a pedestal, you are shocked and react. When you react, you have to do two things: you have to justify yourself for being dumb enough to make an idol out of that person, and in so doing, you get into self-deception.

(5) Iconoclastic arrogance destroys friendship, romance, marriage, business relationships, and church relationships. It is the message of the pastor that counts, not the person of the pastor. Occasional disappointment with others is normal and easily handled through the function of impersonal love. But iconoclastic arrogance results in permanent destruction of the spiritual life.

(6) Principles.

(a) The arrogant iconoclast never blames himself for what he has done in creating and destroying an idol. This is the second arrogance skill—self-deception. In his irrational state of arrogance, he or she fantasizes, and then blames the idol for being created by his own arrogance and for being a normal person with a sin nature.

(b) Arrogance never takes responsibility for being arrogant.

(c) Illusion created by arrogance becomes illusion destroyed by arrogance. What arrogance creates, arrogance also destroys. A person functioning under the arrogance skills will never have any real, genuine, permanent relationships in life. They are all superficial and all depend on other people feeding your arrogance.

(d) Arrogance creates illusion and the fragmented life destroys that illusion.

(e) Iconoclastic arrogance and the feet of clay syndrome is the inevitable results of getting out of fellowship and just neglecting the spiritual skills. The result is the polarization of the old sin nature trends resulting in self-justification and self-deception.

(f) The arrogant reaction of idolizing and rejecting your own icon is the vanity of transferring the blame for your failure onto the icon you have created. This is denial plus projection.

(g) Once you transfer the blame for your disillusion, disenchantment, and disappointment to the idol you have created, then you malign, slander, judge, and seek to destroy the idol you have created.

(h) Arrogance destroys what arrogance creates.

(i) The feet of clay syndrome is arrogant irrationality of rearranging the doctrine of hamartiology (sin) to make it compatible with your own self-righteousness and with your own legalism regarding the trend of your own sin nature. Self-righteous arrogance inevitably results in creating a system of self-justification. Self-justification removes you from reality; you enter into denial; you try to compensate for all of this through projection.

c. Role model arrogance is a part of iconoclastic arrogance.

(1) Role is defined as a proper or customary function of an individual. Society and people in general have assigned certain customary functions to certain activities in life. When anyone departs from his role model, he is slandered, maligned, criticized, and rejected. People have a predilection for demanding that everything in life be in its proper place. Consequently, society resents any deviation from assigned role models. Therefore, out of this, society develops a double standard which comes from the arrogance skills.

(2) While a person may excuse his own sins, failures, and flaws, he condemns the role model for the same sins, failures, and flaws, often not realizing he is condemning the role model for his very own failures. This is the normal function of denial in trying to justify self. On the one hand, judging the role model for sins from your own trend of the sin nature is hypocrisy, while on the other hand, judging the role model for sins from the opposite trend becomes self-absorption. Self-absorption results in reinforcing self-deception and reinforcing the pattern of life: I must always be right, therefore, I must find a way to justify self.

- (3) Role model arrogance gravitates toward the trend of self-righteous arrogance and legalism. Therefore, you have self-justification. Role model arrogance manufactures hypocrites out of self and victims out of the role model. That is self-deception.
- (4) Role model arrogance rejects the problem solving devices and substitutes arrogant subjectivity of preoccupation with self and others.
- (5) Role model arrogance ignores the fact that you cannot change others, you can only change yourself. Role model arrogance demands that others change and become compatible with the arrogant skills of the person in role model arrogance or suffer the consequences.
- (6) Role model arrogance distracts the person in the pew by placing emphasis on the personality or the lifestyle of someone else in the congregation, or the pastor.
- (7) Role model arrogance is a part of iconoclastic arrogance and the feet of clay syndrome. The double standard of role model arrogance originates from the polarization of the sin nature's trends toward self-righteous arrogance or legalism, and therefore, self-justification. Role model arrogance (self-justification) plus unrealistic expectation (self-deception) combine to form the tragic flaw of legalism in the believer (self-absorption).
- (8) The fragmented life of legalism rejects the grace policy of God and enters into a series of sins related to anti-grace, rejecting, therefore, the divine initiative of antecedent and eschatological grace. The bad combination of unrealistic expectation and role model arrogance forms the tragic flaw of the double standard that never escapes the believer so involved. The bad combination of unrealistic expectation (self-deception) and role model arrogance (self-justification) results in the polarization of the sin nature trends, and this finally results in self-absorption. All of this is the great enemy of the Christian way of life.

***Example: Power + Sex Motivated Psychopath***

Psychopaths – [psycopathyawareness.com](http://psycopathyawareness.com)

**Psychopaths are Losers who view themselves as Leaders. As we've seen, unless there's a specific advantage for him, a psychopath never admits to being wrong, to doing wrong, to having wronged anyone.** Whatever he does wrong to others—cheating, lying, manipulation, hurting them emotionally and physically—he manages to project blame on the victims and on those around them. **In fact, the psychopath will see his cowardly actions as superior; on a higher plane of existence than the rest of humanity.** Rather than seeing himself as the pathological person that he is—essentially, a Loser who spends his life parasitically using and taking advantage of others—the psychopath is likely to see and describe himself as a maverick: a lone dissenter, a willfully independent hero “ahead of the pack,” who rejects the dated and commonplace notions of right and wrong and of truth and falsehood. Ethical human beings, who care about others, are considered by the psychopath and his followers “moralistic” and “narrow-minded”.

Like the Nietzschean Superman, the psychopath considers himself beyond the norms of good and evil: except, of course, when it comes to double standards, since no psychopath would want others to use, manipulate, deride and hurt him as he does them. The underlying narcissism that leads the psychopath to focus only on his desires, pleasures and needs also blinds him to his faults and protects him from self-blame. ***He reframes reality to fit with his narcissistic delusions. Sleaziness, violence, stalking and perversion--sadistic games played at other people's expense—are framed as “hedonism”, “childlike innocence and playfulness” or “libertine freedom”. Lies are framed as “creative interpretations of reality” or clever “modes of persuasion”. Manipulativeness, slander and back-stabbing become, in his deranged mind, “Machiavellianism” or “cunning”. As the psychopath's idiotic grins which often accompany his malicious actions reveal time after time, his behavior and intentions are as far removed from “childlike” or “harmless fun” as possible. “Freedom” too is a meaningless concept, given that his main goal is to trample on the freedom and rights of others. He intends to control and harm others: control***

***by harming them, to be precise. (hence the picture of Valmont, above, from the novel and movie, “Dangerous Liaisons,” which is also part of the title of my book on the subject of psychopathy).***

Admitting fault, or taking responsibility for harmful actions would, after all, take a degree of **empathy**—of putting himself in others’ shoes and seeing himself as they do—which the psychopath is not only **incapable of**, but also **repudiates**. For a psychopath, caring about others, putting oneself in their shoes, is only for followers, for the herd. **In his own mind, he’s a born leader**: even when nobody follows him, or even if he only leads a few individuals to collude with his wrongdoing and, eventually, to sow their own destruction. After all, from the psychopath’s self-absorbed perspective, **humanity exists only to serve his immediate needs**.

***The psychopath creates the illusion of a “special bond” for those whom he finds most useful at any given time: meaning those who enhance his reputation; help him lure and procure other sexual partners; or offer him money, property and status. For those individuals he fosters isolation from meaningful relationships (while simultaneously encouraging promiscuity) and cultivates an “us” versus “them” mentality. Everyone who sees through his mask of sanity or exposes his sophistry and lies becomes an “enemy” in his eyes, and therefore a target of his hatred and derision.***

***The frenetic accumulation of sexual partners, their property and spawning of both “legitimate” and illegitimate children with some of them—a kind of predatory consumption and collection of human beings—takes the place of any emotional depth and of any worthwhile life achievements. The most psychopathic among them are so heartless and callous that they reject their own children, once they devalue and discard the women who gave birth to them. Because of this absolute and fundamental narcissism, a psychopath can’t change and, most importantly, he doesn’t want to change. He inhabits a fantasy world—which becomes more real than reality for him and those he manages to brainwash —whereby truth***

***and falsehood hold only instrumental meaning and where morality is just an outdated fiction for the narrow-minded and weak.***

***Why? We must remember that at the core of psychopathy is narcissism. The psychopath's psychological mindset is one of grandiosity, lack of empathy for others, and sense of superiority. He grossly overestimates his abilities and accomplishments and underestimates those of others.***

***Simply put, he should be able to do anything he wishes, however harmful and destructive, because he's better than others. In making his main accomplices feel "superior" and "special" by mere association with him, he passes on to them this grandiosity and sense of being above the rules. Stupidity never looks more ridiculous and repulsive than when combined with such pompousness and arrogance.***

As Robert Lindner states in his groundbreaking study of psychopathy, *Rebel without a Cause* (New York: Grune and Straton, 1944): "The psychopath is a rebel, a religious disobeyer of prevailing codes and standards... a rebel without a cause, an agitator without a slogan, a revolutionary without a program; in other words, **his rebelliousness is aimed to achieve goals satisfactory to him alone; he is incapable of exertions for the sake of others. All his efforts, under no matter what guise, represent investments designed to satisfy his immediate wishes and desires.**" (2)

But even this doesn't fully capture the outlandishness of the psychopathic mindset. **Psychopaths live in an Orwellian doublethink world.** They believe the truth of the moment while actively seeking new opportunities. We might as well call it a "psychopath-think," since such individuals have their own language. **It is a language of narcissism; a delusional doublespeak.** For example, to a psychopathic seducer, "I love you" means "You give me a rush at this moment." "You love me" translates as "you forgo your needs to bend to my will." "Trust me" means "What a sucker!" "You're the woman of my life," translates into "You're one of a long, indefinite sequence of women that's also simultaneous" (Psychopaths have their own version of math as well).

"Mutual fidelity" means "you need to be faithful to me while I cheat on you." "Betrayal" means "You dared disapprove of something I did" or "You disobeyed me in some respect."

“Mutual commitment” translates into “You need to revolve everything in your life only around me while I do exactly what I want.” “Honesty” means “My truth,” or “Saying whatever gets me what I want at the moment.” “I miss you” means “I miss the function you played in my life because I’m a little bored right now.” “What my Baby wants, my Baby gets” means “I’ll give you attention, flattery and gifts only until I hook you emotionally and gain your trust. Afterwards, Mazeltov Baby! You’re on your own.” “I cheat because my wife/girlfriend doesn’t satisfy me” means “...and neither will you, in a few months, at most.” “We belong together” means “I own you completely while I remain free.” “If anything happens between us, it won’t be because of me” means “Nothing’s ever my fault. If I do something harmful, it’s because you (and others) weren’t good enough for me.” Unless you learn to decipher the psychopathic code, you’re likely to be “lost in translation.” If I put my mind to it, I could write a whole dictionary of “psychopath-speak” and its translation into regular human language.

Every so-called “truth” psychopaths utter is momentary and contingent upon their immediate gratification. Since their feelings are shallow, so is their truth-value. If you add “for now” to their declarations of love, they may sometimes ring plausible. For instance, during the euphoric seduction phase, psychopaths may believe when they tell a girlfriend that they love her and want to spend the rest of their life with her. **But, as my novel, *The Seducer*, illustrates, their passion isn’t grounded in any empathy, love or commitment.**