

1. **Deut 30:19,20. The Lord calls us to choose between life and death, blessing and cursing and urges us to choose life that we and our descendants might live.** The choice for life is to love the Lord our God, to obey his voice and to cling to Him, for He is our life, our length of days and by Him we dwell in the land of our inheritance, *Mk 12:30,31*.
2. We win or lose by the things we choose.
3. **Don't just drift through life. Choose this day whom you will serve.** As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord, *Josh 24:15, 1K 18:21*.
4. **Today we will look at refusing pride and choosing humility.**
5. **Because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble,** *1Pet 5:5,6, Jam 4:6, Pro 16:5, Pro 16:18*.
6. *Job 41* describes leviathan and *v34* says he is a king over all the children of pride. *Isaiah 27:1* says leviathan is the piercing crooked serpent, the dragon in the sea. *Revelation 12:9* says the great dragon, that old serpent called the devil and satan..... Pride is piercing in its critical, judgmental aspect and crooked in its hypocrisy, pretence and lies.
7. The Lord knows the proud afar off, *Ps 138:6*. The proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord, *Pro 16:5*. Pride goes before destruction, *Pro 16:18*.
8. **Pride is a critical, judging attitude to others, to God and man, and is lifting self up and putting others down.**
9. Who are you to judge another man's servant, *Rom 14:4*. We all fall short in many things, *Jam 3:2*. Why do you judge your brother? We will all stand at the judgment seat of Christ, *Rom 14:10*. Do not speak evil and judge your brother, *Jam 4:11,12*. Judge not that you be not judged. As you judge you will be judged, *Mat 7:1,2*. When you judge another you condemn yourself because you also fall short in many things, *Rom 2:1,2, Jam 3:2*. (Evaluation is not judging, We are commanded to evaluate all things, *Ac 17:11, 1Thes 5:21*.)
10. About ten years ago, I saw a vision of two freshly dug graves and I knew who they were for. As I loved the people concerned I cried out, "No, God". I kept saying this for three days. After three days I read *Jer 13:15-17*, in my daily Bible reading and the Lord spoke strongly to me, to repent of my pride and rebellion. I fell on my knees and asked God for forgiveness. I accepted the vision with a broken heart. God then said, the graves do not mean they are going to die but that He was leading them to die to self. **My reaction to the vision was lifting myself up against God in pride.**
11. One day two men went up to the temple to pray, one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector, *Lk 18:9-14*. The Pharisee lifted up his own self righteousness and despised the tax collector. The tax collector bowed his head, beat on his chest and asked God for forgiveness of his sins. God heard the prayer of the tax collector and accepted him but rejected the prayer of the proud Pharisee.
12. **When you are called to a banquet take the lowest place available** and do not rush to the highest seat, *Lk 14:8-11*. Once we were called to a Samoan banquet and observed a couple enter the room and sit at an obscure table in the corner. The master of the feast called them up to the centre of the table of honour, much to their surprise. As others were called alongside them, they asked, "Why are we sitting here?" They were told that because they were pastors, they were honoured in this way.
13. Some years ago, the Holy Spirit said to me, **you have judgmental thoughts in your mind whenever your wife does not please you.** I confessed this to God and to my wife and repented. I made up my mind that whenever my wife does something that does not please me, I would release her from my judgment and pray rich blessing upon her. My judgmental thoughts had brought a heaviness of condemnation, but this was removed when I repented of my pride and started to bless.
14. **More than 50% of all problems in the church are due to unforgiveness which is holding other people in judgment for the wrong they have done.** Jesus said, forgive others their sins against you, *Mk 11:25,26*, release them from judgment, *Mat 7:1,2*, and pray blessing upon them, *Lk 6:27,28, 35-37*. The Word also says, hand your problems over to the Lord and let Him work them out, *1Pet 5:7, Ps 55:22*. When blessing believers you can use *Col 1:9-11* and when blessing unbelievers, *Ac 26:18*.
15. **If we forgive, God forgives us, but if we don't forgive others, God will not forgive us our sins.** Our unforgiveness stops God forgiving our sins. Can we go to heaven if our sins are not forgiven? *1Cor 15:3, 1Pet 2:24*.
16. **So choose humility now. Humility is serving God and others in love out of a secure identity by the leading and power of the Holy Spirit,** *Phil 2:5-8, Jn 13:4-17, Mat 20:20-28, Gal 5:13, 6:10, Rom 12:13, 2Cor 4:5*. Motherhood and fatherhood are the two greatest ministries.
17. **We need to find our secure identity in Christ** – see Pastor's Notes No 261.
 - a. **general identity for all believers,** e.g. *2Cor 5:17,21*. Pastor's Notes No 25.
 - b. **specific personal identity, vision, calling, gifts, ministries, significance, self worth and security.** For details: www.pastornotes.com
18. **Jesus ministry is based on his secure personal identity in God,** *Phil 2:6, Jn 4:26, 13:13, 8:12,58, 6:35, 14:6*.
19. **Choose to be a servant of God to do His will,** *Deut 30:19,20*.
20. **Choose to be a servant of others out of a secure identity, by the leading and power of the Holy Spirit,** *Gal 5:13*.
20. By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honour and life, *Pro 22:4, KJV*.
21. Keep busy serving the Lord and His people.
Keep busy witnessing to the lost, *Lk 19:10*.
Keep caring for the poor and needy, *Mat 25:35,36*.