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LIFE BECOMES
EASIER WHEN
YOU LEARN TO
ACCEPT AN
APOLOGY YOU
NEVER GOT.

Defiance and Pride....

The current rhetoric on the presidential campaign trail is a **prime illustration of pride and defiance.**

*I can say whatever I want.
I don't care who it offends.
I am not apologizing.*

What keeps a person from apologizing?

Stubborn defiance fueled by pride is the barrier for most people. In most situations, one of these scenarios is playing out:

- **I wasn't wrong.** I am not apologizing.
- **Apologies are made by weak people.**
- **I messed up but** he has hurt me many times; he deserves it.

• **An apology will come back to hurt me.** If I admit I was wrong, she will use it against me.

PRIDE was one of the first sins and remains one of strongholds in many of our lives. **Pride manifests itself in so many subtle, but lethal ways:**

In a hidden desire for the praise and admiration of others, an insistence on being "right," the desire to be noticed and appreciated, fear of rejection, or pre-occupation with myself my feelings, my needs, my circumstances, my burdens, my desires, my successes, my failures.

When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom. Proverbs 11:2

Why should I apologize if I didn't do anything wrong?

I apologize **for the hurt** that I caused. I apologize **to reconcile the relationship.** Reconciliation is important.

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud.

Romans 12:16

Sometimes we say things that are true but they are still hurtful. **A good guideline** to follow: *Is it true? Is it loving? Is it necessary?*

As long as you are proud, you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you. C.S. Lewis

Humility....

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

HUMILITY develops through maturing in faith. Humility shows that **I recognize my own desperate condition apart from God.**

I can acknowledge that everything good in my life comes from Him and not from anything that I have done or can do.

In humility, **I see that my value and worth** in life is from and through the life of Christ in me.

At that point, **admitting that I am wrong** or don't measure up

to my own or other's standards does not threaten my sense of personal worth. **I do not have to prove** my "right-ness," competence, or strength.

Humility also makes **forgiveness** easier - whether an apology has been offered or not. I don't have to make the other person feel worse so that I can feel better.