

# American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org  
Encouraging Christians to guard their heart July 2025

## USA Pride by Steve Huston



*“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”* (Prov. 16:18)

There’s hardly a person who enjoys either thinking or talking about this monster called Pride, except, possibly, in order to take aim at oneself or another and sling a disparaging stone at it, as though a thought or word would drop this Goliath to the ground.

Though it would behoove us to heed Solomon’s warning against pride, the Bible actually **commands us** to not be proud: *“Hear ye, and give ear; be not proud: for the LORD hath spoken”* (Jer. 13:15). More to the point, God commands us to be the exact opposite: Humble. One such example with promise is found in James 4:10. *“Humble yourselves in the sight of*

*the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”*

To put on Christ (Rom. 13:14) and to have the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5) is to experientially know humility. Puritan Daniel Cawdrey elegantly exhorts: *“Humility is the robe of all the sons of God—and the distinguishing character of a true Christian. Humility is the only way to glory. True humility never desires to show itself because it intends to hide, not only other virtues, but above all, itself.”*

It’s hard to fathom how the giant of pride can remain hidden in the smallest and darkest recesses of our heart. So much to the point that the “father of the Puritans,” William Perkins, stated, *“The lesser we discern pride in ourselves—the more it reigns in our hearts.”*

There are many lessons we could address regarding pride in our own personal lives, but being July, let us look at “national pride” and our response to it as Christians.

With the high likelihood of being misunderstood and with all due respect to Lee Greenwood’s inspiring, popular American tribute, *God Bless the U.S.A.* – with lines like “And I’m proud to be an American...” – keep in mind that it’s God’s Word, not our feelings or what has become acceptable, that should direct our thoughts and actions in all matters.

Keep in mind that most of us had nothing to do with our being citizens of this great land. It was by God’s providential hand that we were born here; He placed us in the family we grew up in; we’ve made choices which affect our lives here, but while we may be grateful and even pleased that God has planted us where we are, there is very little that we can take credit for, for which we can claim pride.

Biblical Israel often fell into this sinful position of **national pride**. The prophets would regularly warn the people against pride in their spiritual

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Biblical Israel often fell into this sinful position of **national pride**. The prophets would regularly warn the people against pride in their spiritual



privilege and in being God's "chosen people." In the New Testament, Jesus also warned against pride, particularly to the pharisees. There is nothing wrong with loving one's country, defending one's native land, recognizing the benefits of living where one lives, and seeing how it benefits other nations as well. But it should be seen through the lens of God's providence and His working within that country, how He has blessed it or brought it low that its people might rejoice and/or return to Him.

Following the above verse in Jeremiah 13, commanding a people to not be proud, we see the preventative to pride in verse 16: "Give glory to the LORD your God...;" this is an Old Testament idiom which means "Confess your sins" (cf. Joshua 7:19). Therefore, this preventative or cure for pride is: giving God glory – recognizing His holy person and His sovereign position, praising

Him, humbly confessing our sins before Him, submitting to Him, and humbling ourselves in obedience to His holy Word. If we truly humble ourselves before Him, He shall lift us up. The converse is also true; If we stand in pride or glory in ourselves (or our land), we WILL be brought low. Instead of light, we shall receive darkness; judgment becomes ours, rather than blessing. During this month which encourages patriotic pride, let us learn the lesson of humility – recognizing that all we have has come from God's good hand and that all we are is by God's good graces. May our pride be turned to pleasure in knowing the one, true God. If we are in trouble (nationally or personally), let us call for days of humiliation and prayer, as our forefathers once did so long ago. Can we objectively see where we stand in comparison to God's righteous laws and to His holiness? Pray for clarity and a spirit of confession.

Verses 17-18 continue: "But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall

*weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive. Say unto the king and to the queen, **Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even the crown of your glory.***"

Will we heed the warning that Israel refused? Will we humble ourselves or continue in pride? Look at it this way: As Christians, the Kingdom of God is our native land, we are mere sojourners in America, pointing others to Jesus Christ and to His atoning work upon the cross so that they, also, might become holy natives, through adoption by the King, into God's glorious Kingdom.

*"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."* (Jer. 9:23-24)



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