

LET GO OF EGO!

It was Aristotle who said that every person naturally desires knowledge. But what good is knowledge without respect for God? Therefore, Augustine commented that a humble, simple person who serves God is far better off than a proud intellectual who neglects his own soul in order to study the movement of the stars. Anyone who truly comes to know himself well will become nothing in his own eyes and not proud when praised by others.

If I knew all things in the world but had not love for others, what good would it do me, especially in light of the fact that I will stand before God, who will judge both my actions and my innermost thoughts?

Turn from the desire for worldly wisdom and the types of knowledge that this world esteems, for they contain lies. Many people desire to appear smart and like to be called wise, yet there are many things one can know that will do no good to their soul. Sadly, many people fill their minds with things that will not lead them to the salvation of faith.

Knowing all of the latest facts or opinions will not satisfy your soul. Rather, living a good, faithful, simple life of trust in God will ease your mind and cleanse your conscience.

Likewise, if you soar the heights of trying to understand God and teach others about Him, then the more you know the more will be expected of you—and the more strictly you will be judged (James 3:1). Therefore, your life must be all the more holy.

So do not be proud because of your knowledge or the great skills you have developed. Rather, humbly fear God because of the talent given you. If you think you know many things and have great understanding, then always realize that there is still much that you don't know. Do not claim yourself wise, but admit your ignorance. And do not think yourself more learned or cultured than someone else, for there are many people more “in the know” than you.

If you wish to find true knowledge and wisdom, then seek to be unknown and consider yourself nothing. To truly know yourself and despise your pride is the best counsel a person can embrace. To think NOT of yourself at all, but to think highly of others is the best and most perfect wisdom.

Therefore, if you see another person sin or fail, do not consider yourself better than they are. All men and women are weak and frail, but you must admit that none is more frail than yourself.

“Don't deceive yourselves! If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, then let him become a fool so that he might become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God.” (1 Corinthians 3:18f)

Thanks for the warning, Thomas,

Scott