Thank God, I’m Not Like Them

**Text:** I John 2:16 “For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and

the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of

the world.”

**Introduction:** I saw a T-shirt the other day that I liked. It said: “I’m not lazy. I just really like sitting around doing nothing!”

I want to tell you a story today. Once upon a time there was an entire city that was occupied by people who lived only to please themselves and did not care what others thought. They had the most fun of any-body and they rejected any criticism of their lifestyle. When the doctor told them to change their diet or cut down on their eating they just laughed at him. Pride was in and humility was out. Working hard was for the uneducated and ignorant. They were morally corrupt and disregarded any restraints on fulfilling their desires regardless of how bizarre they may seem to others. There may have been one or two people who had a different outlook on life, in that town, but they never spoke up. They had four main problems.

**I. They were Arrogant:** Pride is a cancer in the world that you and I occupy today. We are constantly bombarded with advertisements that tell us how we can look better than others, have more and better stuff than others, and win at the game of life. Those who have less than us are considered poor money managers or not motivated or poorly educated. Those who don’t look as good as we do just need to go to the gym and get a makeover or something. We are proud of our looks, our income, our job, our status, our family, our house, our vehicles, our yard, our clothes and the list goes on. Pride is closely entwined with a judgmental attitude. For when we are proudly focused on our- selves we become harsh judges of others. Arrogance always peers down on others.

**II. They were Obese:** They fulfilled their own greed and wants to the point of becoming obese. They are the people who are 150 pounds overweight and are snacking on doughnuts and sugar free cola. They are not people who have a medical condition but rather ones who over eat, eat the wrong things and refuse to exercise or change their habits. They bad mouth those who smoke because they are damaging their

health as they unwrap another twinkie. They are the picture of self-indulgence.

**III. They were Lazy:** These are people who do just enough to get by. They are either late last minute to work but show up early for a pot luck dinner. They expend far more energy trying to get out of work then it would take to just do the task at hand. They lay in bed on a Saturday hoping that everyone thinks that they are still asleep so they don’t have to do any dreaded chores. If you work with one of these they are the ones who spend a lot of time in the restroom and take frequent breaks. They will smooze the boss and distain the ones who are doing twice the work because of their laziness.

**IV. They were Selfish:** They always prefaced helping others with the question: “What’s in it for me?” They only gave to charity when they could see their name recognized. There was no generosity in their generosity. When others were in need they could justify their refusal to give by condemning the needy.

**Conclude:** These people are mentioned in the Bible. Who do you think they are? Please turn with me to Ezekiel 16:47-52.

When we are told about Sodom we usually think of a far different sin than Arrogance, Obesity, and Laziness. Why is that?

Ezekiel looked beyond the flagrant/obvious sins and saw the deeper sins behind them. One cannot be an adulterer, a sodomite, a murderer, or an idolater unless he or she first ditches humility and becomes arrogance against God. He or she must leave their God focus to become self-focused. They are too lazy to do the work involved it righteous behavior.

Paul describes them to Timothy like this: “For men shall be lovers of

their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient

to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreak-

ers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of

God;”

If pride is a problem, if self-indulgence is a problem, if laziness is a

problem then there is no sin that is beyond our ability to commit.

When you and I recognize the truth that Ezekiel reveals here we

Should have no problem with humility. Judgment and condemnation

are out of the window.