

THE STICKIEST THING ON EARTH

[Pro 20:9](#) Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

All my sources say that **Caulobacter crescentus**...is the stickiest thing on earth. Look it up for yourself. I don't know how to pronounce it and I can't explain exactly what it is but I am **PROUD** that I know this...and the fact that YOU did not know this increases my proudness. Sounds like silly knowledge but **stick** with me and I will make my point...



We have all gotten something on your hands that was sticky. Hard as you try you can't seem to shake it off. We have all played with super glue till it finally dried between our thumb and finger and then...what do I do now? Speaking of super glue, a friend was having some eye trouble and stumbled into the bathroom in the middle of the night

and put what he thought was eye drops in...NO NO...it was super glue. What do you do now? As memory goes there are memories that I have had for well over 60 years that are as clear now as they originally were when they happened. I remember STUPID, NASTY jokes I heard in 7th grade but can't remember the verse I planned to use in my sermon tomorrow. Why do some things just stick and others are easily gone. I could use a whole tube of super, super glue but it wouldn't hold my front tooth in for a short time, but the dentist uses one tiny coating of her adhesive, and my tooth stays in for years.

Well, I disagree with my research on the stickiest thing on earth mentioned in the first paragraph. I believe the stickiest thing on earth is **PRIDE**. All of us have experienced this spiritual SUPER GLUE and can testify that it sticks to everything in our lives and just won't let go. It doesn't cost anything so the poorest folk among us have plenty of it. Some folks are proud they are poor. But because pride is cheap the rich hoard it up as if there might be a supply chain problem with pride. Go soul winning in the rich neighborhoods and at the sound of the doorbell you either heard, click, click, slot, slot, chick...to unlock all the locks on the door that hasn't been opened since the house was built or you will see a peak from the side window and silence. But go soul winning among the homeless and they are so proud of their homelessness they will make you feel sorry you are living in a decent home. Some of my many experiences in preaching have been in rescue missions. They have been made mostly obsolete today due to the pride of the democratic-run homeless flop houses where nothing is required or expected from the patrons. Some of the proudest souls I have ever dealt with were those staying in a rescue mission in the worst part of town.

Since **PRIDE** is the stickiest thing on earth then probably all of us still have some sticking on us. OH...YEA! I have known guys in first semester of Bible college that were proud they finally KNOW-IT-ALL. I have also known folk who have more letters AFTER their name than IN their name who are proud of the fact that they really do KNOW-IT-ALL. There are those who wear their pride like a badge and there are those who are so humble they are proud of their humility.

Once a man entered a "Humble" contest and won, but as soon as they pinned the "Humble" button on him they had to remove it because he was no longer humble. I have met guys that were proud they could deliver such a wonderful sermon. They are preaching to some that are proud they had never humbled themselves to try to preach such a wonderful sermon.

Some who read this are shaking your head, in pride at the hilarious truths presented that projects the mocking at anyone other than yourself. As for me, I am just **proud** I could humble myself to write something as convicting as this.

I agree with William Beveridge who said, "I cannot pray, except I sin. I cannot preach, but I sin. I cannot administer, nor receive the holy sacrament, but I sin. My very repentance needs to be repented of and the tears I shed need washing in the blood of Christ."

So, what is the solution that can dissolve this pride? If you are like my friend who accidentally used super glue for his eyes and said, Great, what do I do now, you will need the proper solution applied properly but the Great Physician. My friend went to the hospital emergency room and they applied a solution that dissolved the glue but did not damage the eye. Strange as it may seem, my friend testified that after this most humbling experience, he saw better in that eye than he had ever seen in years. WOW, what is this solution...maybe I'll try it.

So, what is the solution? I heard of a man who once invented a universal solvent. Now, he is trying to invent something to keep it in. Ha, ha. Science says that the universal solvent is water, but water has no affect on pride. I asked a homeless man if he ever got saved and he quickly pulled out a folded, perspiration saturated, nearly totally deteriorated paper from his back pocket. He showed me his baptismal certificate. Water will not dissolve pride. Psychology's solution is to ignore pride and just think well of yourself. When you cover pride somehow it whispers in your ear and convinces you that you are, at least better than.....the closes person to you.

The solution to be used when you are stuck in pride is to be found in Psalm 51. Our pride is truly an emergency and needs to be examined by the GREAT PHYSICIAN. Religion just exacerbates the problem. Education makes pride swell, (knowledge puffeth up). Probably the reason churches no longer have a mourner's bench is because there is no more mourning over their sin. Neither can they blush.

Anyone who truly wants to find a solution for pride can find it in Psalm 51. Romans 3:23 is no solution for pride. A man faced with Romans 3:23 can justify it by arguing that there are degrees

of sin. Paul, in his admission to being chief of sinners could have relished in being *chief*. 1Jn. 1:9 is not totally sufficient to dissolve pride. Thank God for 1Jn. 1:9 for a quick cleansing from sin but it takes a bit more scrubbing to rid oneself of pride. King David who is more of a sinner than most of us (I say that in pride) gives us the solution...but the price is high. Read it slowly and put yourself in every verse...read it again...read it again until the joy of being free from the sin of pride makes your heart rejoice and causes you to give ALL the glory to the Lord...for everything.

There are some ministry activities that *MAY* help in curbing pride. Preaching to the homeless on the streets or in rescue missions. There is nothing to match the humility exercise of getting on your knees and praying with a smelly bum or a mascara-streaked whore. I once knew a man who had an earned Ph.D. His major was psychology, and his minor was in Semitic languages. He was a fine artist, and his works were exhibited. Just to exercise humility and keep the pride down he would preach and draw a chalk picture across the street from a junior high school while the kids walked by and mocked and jeered on their way home. I think he was kin to a man who preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to a bunch of Pharisees who stoned him to death as he prayed for their forgiveness. Stephen was our first New Testament hero/martyr. It would be spiritually healthy for all of us to draw closer to these kinds of kin.