

Pride

Pride is a sense of pleasure in one's own accomplishments, personhood, or place in the eyes of others. This condition is not an emotion but truly a condition, a state in which one exists. Because pride is such a defining condition of the whole person, it has come in for diverse judgments over the ages.

To the ancient Greeks pride was inestimably valuable. Everything connected with self-esteem and honor was closely allied with pride. A man's worth equalled his pride. In the early Christian centuries this identification of pride with human value was subjected to severe scrutiny. One can see this change in perspective in the *Confessions* of Saint Augustine. This thinker makes it clear that from the outset of life human beings are squalling and selfish creatures—capable of humility but only after the changes administered by the Church, changes leading us to live and work modestly with ourselves, following the modest model of Sonship established for us by Jesus Christ. Pride comes to seem an obstacle on the pathway to encounter with god. The Greek perspective is now, gradually, upended

Augustine speaks through the early perspective of the Christian Church, which had a complex development of Christian morals ahead of it before coming to ground where we are today, on the far shore of a couple of Reformations, and in the midst of an unfolding sequence of modern interpretations of human behavior and development. It is hard to say where we are just now on the question of pride. Mixed messages filter through the cultural community. Humility is valued as a virtue, and the sane consequences of humble modesty cannot fail to catch any parent's attention. These same parents, however, will have discovered that not only their son, who is on the football team, but most of the town, is totally proud of the team