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Pride vs. Humility

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Pride Vs. Humility

The Pride vs. Humility game was not shown on any of the major networks. If we try to imagine the two teams, one might seem to be a very unlikely candidate for a bowl game. How could the apparently weak Humility team face the clearly powerful Pride team? But the contest between the two was and is about realities, not mere appearances.

Pride had considerable publicity for their many victories, although most of their contests were won against weak opponents. For example, Pride had no difficulty beating Wealth, Possessions, Fame, and similar teams, all members of the same league, all with rosters full of players who were full of themselves. Humility came to the bowl game with victories won by narrow margins in which the games were not decided until the last minutes. Recall their great victory over Death, a team that Pride did not play. Death had an undefeated season until encountering Humility. They had a huge line that could run over any team, yet Humility used plays for which Death had no apparent defense. Death again and again rushed down the field to what seemed a sure touchdown, only to fumble the ball to Humility, who won, decisively.

The Pride team probably believed that they were invincible, having read the media coverage they received. Their players arrogantly "trash-talked" Humility, and celebrated each of their touchdowns with showy displays and gestures. Humility had as many talented players as the Pride team, but all Humility's players were well aware of their dependence upon one another and understood that they had received as gifts all that enabled them to play as well as they did. Without flair or spectacular plays, they beat Pride as soundly as they beat Death.

Those who reflected upon the victory of Humility over Pride could see the qualities and characteristics of both teams that made the outcome seem inevitable.

The proud are weak, pretending to have moral authority while relying on coercion and manipulation rather than love. Bullies might gain a following of those who do not want to take responsibility for their lives, but the self-centeredness of such persons does not draw others into the unity for which we are created. The humble are stronger by far. They possess an authority arising from their honest relationship with both God and people. Lies are at the root of pride, while humility is founded on truth.

The proud act as if they invented themselves, and are accountable to no one. Some of them talk about God, but a God who suits their own purposes, not a God who could surprise them and require their trust, and certainly not a God who loves everyone unconditionally. The humble find no difficulty in acknowledging that they are created; they are pleased not to bear the false burden of being their own creators. Rather, they accept their status as children of God in a family where all the members are worthy of their love.

Those who won the bowl game really did win, but their confidence was not only in their own prowess, but in their true status as beloved children of God. Perhaps the victors felt humbly proud after engaging in the great contest of Pride Vs. Humility.