

Character Plays

This character play has a valuable message. The play depicts a dialog between Dr. Goodword, a faithful counselor, and Ms. Patty Pride, who comes to his Spiritual Clinic with a chronic human disorder: pernicious pridosis! The help that the doctor gives Patty comes from the Bible as he guides her toward a more Christlike way of life.¹

The script is short and easy to learn, and with a few simple props and costumes you will be ready to put on a memorable production. Encourage your actors to put feeling into their parts and be sure to have someone behind a camera. Your cast and crew will enjoy watching the play afterward, and so will the rest of the ecclesia. The message never grows old.

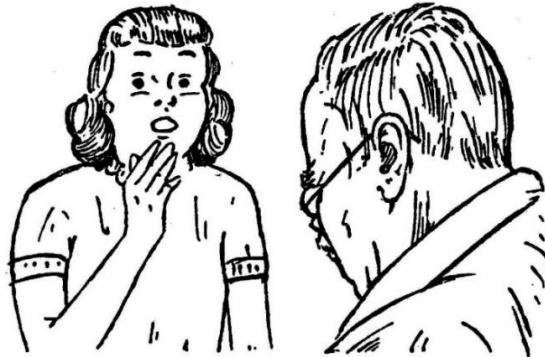
The Case of Patty Pride

Characters

Announcer, Doctor Goodword, Patty Pride, and one or more Bible readers.

Props

The setting is the doctor's office. A desk and two chairs will do. The doctor has a pencil, pad, and Bible on his desk. Doctor Goodword wears a white coat, spectacles and a moustache. Patty is all sweet and modest.



Dr. Goodward is sitting behind his desk and Patty is sitting across from him. She likes to talk about herself and, in fact, has a serious case of I'm-it-ititis. It's time for the camera(s) to roll.

Script²

Announcer: Here we are at the Spiritual Clinic of Dr. Goodword, the helpful specialist in diseases of the soul. His first patient today is a pretty young lady. She seems modest enough, and she has the interesting name of Patty Pride. Let's listen as the Doctor diagnoses her case. Well ... the patient is doing most of the talking right now.

Patty: I don't want to give you the wrong impression, Doctor. I'm really very humble.

¹ The original Dr. Goodword character plays go back many years. The source is unknown. Anyone with information about the origin of these plays is asked to contact sundayschool@tidings.com.

² The play script has been edited and familiar Christadelphian terms like ecclesia, CYC, and daily Bible readings have been introduced where appropriate.

Doctor: Oh?

Patty: Oh my, yes. I don't know anybody who's more humble than I am. To tell you the truth. Doctor, I think I have an inferiority complex.

Doctor: You don't say!

Patty: Yes, I do. And it's really too bad.

Doctor: Why's that?

Patty: Well ... (*hesitating for effect*) ... I have so many talents. It's a shame that I don't have more confidence in myself.

Doctor: What do you mean?

Patty: I can't be like other people ... going around and showing off all the time. I'm humble about my talents. I can't bring myself to talk about them very much.

Doctor: I see.

Patty: Well, I suppose it's better this way. It's better if people know that I'm humble. What would they think if I was always talking about myself?

Doctor: And do people know that you are humble?

Patty: Oh they do. And I'm so glad. I would never want anyone to get the idea that I think I'm good.

Doctor: No, of course not. Well, now, Miss Pride, I think I have your case pretty well diagnosed.

Patty: Diagnosed? But I've hardly started talking. Don't you want me to tell you more about myself?

Doctor: No, I think I have heard enough.

Patty: But how can you diagnose something so quickly?

Doctor: Oh, sometimes it's very easy.

Patty: Well, I know exactly what you're going to say: Miss Pride, you have an inferiority complex!

Doctor: No, young lady. That's not it at all.

Patty: But what else could it be?

Doctor: It's more serious than that. I'm going to treat you for Pernicious Pridosis.

Patty: Pridosis! You mean pride? But, Doctor, I've told you how humble I am. I don't need to be treated for pride.

Doctor: That's my diagnosis, Miss Pride, and I'm going to stand by it. You see, like so many other people, you have the wrong idea about humility.

Patty: Oh, no. Doctor, I ...

Doctor: Just a minute, please. I'm not finished. True humility is not having a low opinion of yourself.

Patty: What is it, then, if it isn't that?

Doctor: True humility is *not thinking about yourself at all*. Do you have a Bible with you, Miss Pride?

Patty: No. I'm afraid I left it home.

Doctor: Then I will let you use mine. (*Handing her his Bible*) I would like you to read Luke 9:23.

Patty: (*Smugly*) Why, I know that by heart. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and ..."

Doctor: That's far enough. Do you see what I mean? Let him deny himself.

Patty: Deny himself of what?

Doctor: Deny *himself*. Not deny himself of things. The humble man forgets about *himself*.

Patty: I've never noticed that before. Doctor.

Doctor: No, I'm sure you haven't. You see, *the self* has to die.

Patty: What do you mean?

Doctor: Maybe I can explain it this way. Do you remember when the apostle Paul said: "I am crucified with Christ?"

Patty: Yes.

Doctor: It means that Paul died, doesn't it?

Patty: I guess so. But wasn't he still alive?

Doctor: Of course, but he went on to say, "Christ lives in me!"

Patty: Oh, now I'm beginning to understand.

Doctor: Paul wasn't the same old Paul anymore. Christ was living in him.

Patty: Wow. I never thought of that.

Doctor: Now, if Paul was dead and Christ was living in him, do you think Paul had any reason to boast about himself?

Patty: No, I guess not. A dead man doesn't have anything to boast about!

- Doctor: All Paul could do was give Christ the glory. He certainly couldn't be proud, could he?
- Patty: No, sir! He wasn't anything anymore, and Christ was everything. That sort of connects with baptism, doesn't it?
- Doctor: It does, Patty. That's right! We are baptized into Christ's death. Now we walk in newness of life.
- Patty: Well, then, I don't have any reason to be proud of myself, do I?
- Doctor: None of us has, Patty. When Christ lives in us, all the glory goes to him.
- Patty: Thank you. Doctor. Thank you *very* much. You've helped me understand what life is all about!
- Reader: "All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" – Romans 6:3-4
- Reader: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" – Galatians 2:20.
- Reader: "Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" – Ephesians 4:22-24.

Curtain.