

Wisdom from the Proverbs

“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:” — Proverbs 1:5.

Pride

The Proverbs give us practical and blessed wisdom for every-day living. This book written by Solomon, as he was moved by the Holy Ghost, has much to say about pride—a deadly sin.

What does the word “proud” mean?

“Having or cherishing a high or lofty opinion of oneself; valuing oneself highly on account of one's position, rank, attainments, possessions, etc.; Usually in a bad sense: Disposed to take an attitude of superiority to and contempt for others; arrogant, haughty, overweening, supercilious.” — *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Proverbs 6:16-17 (KJV) *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A **proud look**, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,*

Proverbs 16:5 (KJV) *Every one that is **proud** in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.*

Proverbs 21:4 (KJV) *An **high look**, and a **proud heart**, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.*

- What does God think of pride or a proud look? It is an abomination to Him.
- God hates pride and the proud look—He said so.
- Is a high look and a proud heart sin? Yes, indeed.

Proverbs 13:10 (KJV) *Only by **pride** cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.*

Proverbs 28:25 (KJV) *He that is of a **proud** heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.*

- Interesting, indeed! Why do folks argue? Why does hard and bitter contention exist? It is only by pride. Pride puts self or one's own desires first—far above others.
- What is the source of strife? Pride is the culprit—a proud and stout heart.

Proverbs 14:3 (KJV) *In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of **pride**: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.*

Proverbs 21:24 (KJV) ***Proud** and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in **proud** wrath.*

Proverbs 15:25 (KJV) *The LORD will destroy the house of the **proud**: but he will establish the border of the widow.*

Proverbs 16:18 (KJV) ***Pride** goeth before destruction, and an **haughty spirit** before a fall.*

Proverbs 29:23 (KJV) *A man's **pride** shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

- Pride foolishly speaks of his escapades and accomplishments. Wise men hold their lips. If a man is worthy of praise or commendation, let him hear the word of God.
 - **Proverbs 27:2 (KJV)** *Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.*
- How many are those who do others hurt in their proud wrath! But **scorners** delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

•

- Those filled with pride shall be abased by the LORD. Though the prideful, haughty spirit says, "I will..." God will bring his expectation to a sudden, but final end.
- Even in this present life, those filled with pride and a haughty spirit have it to their sudden fall. What folly!
- Our God is able to "... behold every one *that is proud*, and **abase him.**" (Job 40:11).

Proverbs 16:19 (KJV) *Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the **proud**.*

Proverbs 11:2 (KJV) *When **pride** cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

Proverbs 8:13 (KJV) *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: **pride**, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

- How much better to be humble, both before God and our fellow man! The proud look and prideful spirit are a blight to us! When one truly fears God, he hates pride—both in himself and in others. Blessed is the man who "humbles himself."
- Shame comes with pride. Since the beginning of the Iraq war, bumper stickers and slogans have appeared across our land which read, "The power of pride," or "Pride power." Such slogans ought to make God's people shudder—for God shall abase everyone who is proud!