

Beware of Pride

We would say, beware of pride also; for well and truly hath the wise man said, that pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.¹ And again, outward appearance² is not always a criterion by which to judge our fellow man;³ but the lips betray the haughty and overbearing imaginations of the heart; by his words and his deeds⁴ let him be judged. Flattery is also a deadly poison.⁵ A frank and open rebuke⁶ provoketh a good man to emulation;⁷ and in the hour of trouble he will be your best friend; but on the other hand, it will draw out all the corruptions of corrupt hearts,⁸ and lying and the poison of asps is under their tongues;⁹ and they do cause the pure in heart¹⁰ to be cast into prison, because they want them out of their way.

A fanciful and flowery and heated imagination beware of; because the things of God are of deep import;¹¹ and time, and experience, and careful¹² and ponderous and solemn thoughts can only find them out. Thy mind, O man! if thou wilt lead a soul unto salvation,¹³ must stretch as high as the utmost heavens,¹⁴ and search into and contemplate the darkest abyss,¹⁵ and the broad expanse of eternity¹⁶—thou must commune with God.¹⁷ How much more dignified and noble are the thoughts of God,¹⁸ than the vain imaginations of the human heart!¹⁹ None but fools will trifle with the souls of men.

How vain and trifling have been our spirits, our conferences, our councils, our meetings, our private as well as public conversations—too low, too mean, too vulgar, too condescending for the dignified characters of the called and chosen²⁰ of God, according to the purposes of His will,²¹ from before the foundation of the world!²² We are called to hold the keys of the mysteries²³ of those things that have been kept hid from the foundation of the world²⁴ until now. Some have tasted a little of these things, many of which are to be poured down from heaven upon the heads²⁵ of babes;²⁶ yea, upon the weak, obscure and despised ones of the earth.²⁷ Therefore we beseech of you, brethren, that you bear with those who do not feel themselves more worthy than yourselves, while we exhort one another to a reformation with one and all, both old and young, teachers and taught, both high and low, rich and poor, bond and free, male and female;²⁸ let honesty, and sobriety, and candor, and solemnity, and virtue, and pureness, and meekness, and sim-

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| 1. Prov. 16:18. | 22. Eph. 1:4. |
| 2. 1 Sam. 16:7. | 23. D&C 35:18. |
| 3. John 7:24. | 24. D&C 124:41. |
| 4. Mosiah 4:30. | 25. D&C 121:33. |
| 5. James 3:8. | 26. Matt. 11:25; D&C 128:18. |
| 6. Prov. 27:5. | 27. 1 Cor. 1:27; D&C 1:19,23; |
| 7. Rom. 11:14. | D&C 35:13; D&C 133:58. |
| 8. D&C 10:21. | 28. 2 Ne. 26:33. |
| 9. Rom. 3:13. | |
| 10. Matt. 5:8; Jacob 2:10; D&C 41:11. | |
| 11. 1 Cor. 2:10-11; 1 Ne. 5:4; Alma 19:34; 3 Ne. 28:15; D&C 76:12; Moses 8:16. | |
| 12. D&C 63:64. | |
| 13. Ps. 25:5. | |
| 14. D&C 76:9. | |
| 15. Mosiah 27:29; Alma 26:3. | |
| 16. Moses 7:53. | |
| 17. D&C 107:19. | |
| 18. Ps. 139:17; Isa. 55:9. | |
| 19. Rom. 1:21. | |
| 20. Matt. 20:16. | |
| 21. Eph. 1:11. | |