

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov.16:18).

Quote: “It’s pride. Plain and simple, that keeps me from giving God all the glory and keeping some of it for myself. It is a battle we all fight in some form or another, some of us daily or even hourly.” Francis Chan

Written In the 1800’s, J.C. Ryle’s book, Thoughts for Young Men, offers timeless insights that are profitable for everyone in every generation. Observing the young people of his generation, he wrote, “How common it is to see young men heady, high-minded and impatient of counsel! How often they are rude and uncourteous to all about them, thinking they are not valued and honored as they deserve! How often they will not stop to listen to a hint from an older person! They think they know everything. They are full of conceit of their own wisdom. They reckon elderly people, and especially their relations, stupid, and dull and slow. They think they want no teaching or instruction themselves: they understand all things. It makes them almost angry to be spoken to. Like young horses, they cannot bear the least control. They must be independent, and have their own way.”

Proverbs warns that God hates “a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”¹ First on the list is *pride!* Proud people do not have the humble, servant’s mindset of Christ. Solomon offers wise instruction to the proud. “The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and *before honor is humility.*”²

Those who have a proud spirit that rejects counsel and correction will “mourn *at last*, when your flesh and your body are consumed, and say: ‘How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised correction! I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!’”³ Pride’s harvest

may be slow in coming, but *it will surely come* and bring destruction with it. *The wise person will heed counsel and pattern his life after godly examples. The writer of Hebrews wrote, “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.”*⁴

“Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor is humility.”⁵ When pride takes up residence in the heart of an individual, it quenches true fear of God. Pride and piety, or reverence and devotion to Christian duty, are polar opposites! Solomon writes as though wisdom is speaking when he pens, “The *fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.*”⁶ The only antidote for pride is pursuing the mind of Christ through the prayerful study and application of His Word.⁷ Paul described this mindset in Philippians. “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in *lowliness of mind* let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind

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be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but *made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*”⁷ To glorify God, “we must embrace and live out humility in order to truly live and be who God means for us to be”—image-bearers of Christ!⁸ Paul wrote of the attitude, ambition and actions necessary for this to happen as we grow in the grace and knowledge of God. “I, therefore, ***the prisoner of the Lord***, beseech you to ***walk worthy of the calling*** with which you were called, with all *lowliness and gentleness*, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*”⁹

1 Prov.7:17-19 2 Prov.15:31-33 3 Prov.5:11-13 4 Heb.13:7, 17 5 Prov.18:12 6 Prov.8:13; 1:22-33 7 Phil.2:1-16 8 Dr. Stuart Scott; Rom.8:29; II Cor.3:18 9 Eph.4:1-3