

VERSION ONE

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They won’t change their minds to accept truths, because to do so implies they have been wrong.

Pride adversely affects all our relationships—our relationship with God and His servants, between husband and wife, parent and child, employer and employee, teacher and student, and all mankind. Our degree of pride determines how we treat our God and our brothers and sisters. Christ wants to lift us to where He is. Do we desire to do the same for others?

Pride fades our feelings of sonship to God and brotherhood to man. It separates and divides us by “ranks,” according to our “riches” and our “chances for learning.”³⁷ Unity is impossible for a proud people, and unless we are one we are not the Lord’s.³⁸

Think of what pride has cost us in the past and what it is now costing us in our own lives, our families, and the Church. Think of the repentance that could take place with lives changed, marriages preserved, and homes strengthened, if pride did not keep us from confessing our sins and forsaking them.³⁹ Think of the many who are less active members of the Church because they were offended and their pride will not allow them to forgive or fully sup at the Lord’s table. Think of the tens of thousands of additional young men and couples who could be on missions except for the pride that keeps them from yielding their hearts unto God.⁴⁰ Think how temple work would increase if the time spent in this godly service were more important than the many prideful pursuits that compete for our time.

Pride affects all of us at various times and in various degrees. Now you can see why the building in Lehi’s dream that represents the pride of the world was large and spacious and great was the multitude that did enter into it.⁴¹

Pride is the universal sin, the great vice. Yes, pride is the universal sin, the great vice.

The antidote for pride is humility—meekness, submissiveness.⁴² It is the broken heart and contrite spirit.⁴³ As Rudyard Kipling put it so well:

*The tumult and the shouting dies;
The captains and the kings depart.
Still stands thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget.*

³⁷ 3 Ne. 6:12
³⁸ See Mosiah 18:21; D&C 38:27; D&C 105:2–4; Moses 7:18
³⁹ See D&C 58:43
⁴⁰ See Alma 10:6; Hel. 3:34–35
⁴¹ See 1 Ne. 8:26, 33; 1 Ne. 11:35–36
⁴² See Alma 7:23
⁴³ See 3 Ne. 9:20; 3 Ne. 12:19; D&C 20:37; D&C 59:8; Ps. 34:18; Isa. 57:15; Isa. 66:2

Let Us Choose To Be Humble

God will have a humble people. Either we can choose to be humble or we can be compelled to be humble. Alma said, “Blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble.”⁴⁴

Let us choose to be humble.

We can choose to humble ourselves by conquering enmity toward our brothers and sisters, esteeming them as ourselves, and lifting them as high or higher than we are.⁴⁵

We can choose to humble ourselves by receiving counsel and chastisement.⁴⁶

We can choose to humble ourselves by forgiving those who have offended us.⁴⁷

We can choose to humble ourselves by rendering selfless service.⁴⁸

We can choose to humble ourselves by going on missions and preaching the word that can humble others.⁴⁹

We can choose to humble ourselves by getting to the temple more frequently.

We can choose to humble ourselves by confessing and forsaking our sins and being born of God.⁵⁰

We can choose to humble ourselves by loving God, submitting our will to His, and putting Him first in our lives.⁵¹

Let us choose to be humble. We can do it. I know we can.

My dear brethren and sisters, we must prepare to redeem Zion. It was essentially the sin of pride that kept us from establishing Zion in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith. It was the same sin of pride that brought consecration to an end among the Nephites.⁵²

Pride is the great stumbling block to Zion. I repeat: Pride is the great stumbling block to Zion.

We must cleanse the inner vessel by conquering pride.⁵³

We must yield “to the enticings of the Holy Spirit,” put off the prideful “natural man,” become “a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord,” and become “as a child, submissive, meek, humble.”⁵⁴

That we may do so and go on to fulfill our divine destiny is my fervent prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

⁴⁴ Alma 32:16
⁴⁵ See D&C 38:24; D&C 81:5; D&C 84:106
⁴⁶ See Jacob 4:10; Hel. 15:3; D&C 63:55; D&C 101:4–5; D&C 108:1; D&C 124:61, 84; D&C 136:3
⁴⁷ See 3 Ne. 13:11, 14; D&C 64:10
⁴⁸ See Mosiah 2:16–17
⁴⁹ See Alma 4:19; Alma 31:5; Alma 48:20
⁵⁰ See D&C 58:43; Mosiah 27:25–26; Alma 5:7–14, 49
⁵¹ See 3 Ne. 11:11; 3 Ne. 13:33; Moro. 10:32
⁵² See 4 Ne. 1:24–25
⁵³ See Alma 6:2–4; Matt. 23:25–26
⁵⁴ Mosiah 3:19; see also Alma 13:28

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