



[Proverbs 11:2](#)

(2) When pride comes, then comes shame;
But with the humble *is* wisdom.

New King James Version

The proud hypocrite deceives himself into ignoring realities in the conduct of his life that the [meek](#) and humble person quickly recognizes and takes into account. The proud person's vanity pushes him into conduct that will end in shame. The humble person's attitude stands in vivid contrast, for his wisdom prevents him from pursuing the same conduct. This produces even more wisdom when good fruit is produced because it reinforces his right decision.

This pride seen in [Proverbs 11:2](#) literally means "boiling up," or we might say, "puffed up." It can mean "to overstep the boundaries." The proud person has an inflated opinion of himself and/or his possessions, abilities, powers, and accomplishments. This exists because pride has deceived him about his importance. He is the center of [the world](#)! The day is coming soon when everyone's proud ego will be deflated, and man's haughty self-regard will be stripped away.

This is exactly what happened to [Satan](#). He got so full of himself that his pride tricked him into believing he could defeat His Creator in battle and take His place! He ignored the reality that he was the creation of [God](#) and that God is superior to His creation in every way. His pride deceived him into underestimating the awesome power of God that he had seen demonstrated in the creation! It made him disregard the limited nature of his own power in comparison, making him think he was stronger than was true. It made him think he could be God!

This attitude is also at the foundation of [Laodiceanism](#). Of what does God accuse the Laodiceans? "*You say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'*" ([Revelation 3:17](#)). Their pride deceives them into believing they are self-sufficient. They have it all! They do not need anything!

We should consider that the Laodicean probably does not say any such thing with his tongue. In fact, he can probably "talk the talk" quite well and hypocritically put on a good show of righteousness. But God looks on the heart, seeing not only his *public* conduct but also his motivations and *private* conduct. The Laodicean is of the class that professes to know God but denies Him in works. God's judgment—the correct judgment—is that he is "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked."

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Pride, Humility, and the Day of Atonement](#)

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