# Principles and Proverbs from Pride and Prejudice

A 120-day devotional inspired by the classic novel by Jane Austen



Chrisann Dawson



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Second edition printed January, 2021 by Shine-A-Light Press in Prescott, Arizona

Second edition edited by Chris and Andrea Elston

Interior and exterior design and layout by Chris Elston

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ISBN 978-0-9976722-8-2

Printed in the U.S.A U.S.A. \$16.99

To Jane Austen lovers everywhere who appreciate her insights into relationships.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I would like to acknowledge the influence of both God's Word and the classical writings of Jane Austen on my personal life. Both have contributed to my personal growth and confidence.

I would also like to thank my first edition editors, Susan Cordaro, Jim Hurlburt, Margot Tan, and Amy VanZile.

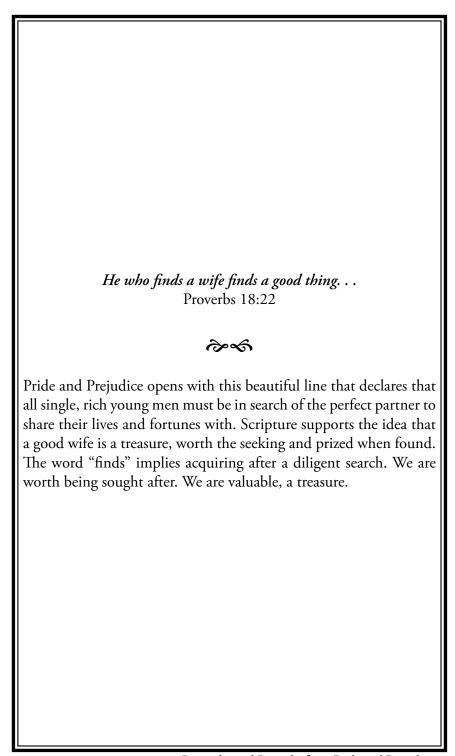
Finally, I'd like to thank Shine-A-Light Press for their affirmation and professionalism.

## Principles and Proverbs from Pride and Prejudice



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DAY ONE			
"It is a truth sion of a gooknown the foing the neigh surrounding	od fortune, must be in eelings or views of such hborhood, this truth is	lged, that a single man in p n want of a wife. Howeven n a man may be on his first so well fixed in the minds nsidered as the rightful pro	r little enter- of the



DAY TWO
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"Do not <i>you</i> want to know who has taken it?" cried his wife impatiently.
"You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it."
That was invitation enough.

### Love is patient and kind. . . 1 Corinthians 13:4



Mrs. Bennet, the mother of five grown daughters, wants to engage her husband in a conversation about this new single man. She does so, referring to a neighboring mansion. Mrs. Bennet lived for only one goal: to see her daughters all happily married to rich, young men with the means to be able to care for them properly.

Longbourn, the Bennet family's estate, came to Mr. Bennet through an entail. If a property was entailed, it could only pass to male heirs. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's original plan was to have a son, keep the estate in the family, and provide for Mrs. Bennet and daughters, but no son arrived; only five daughters. The girls' only hope for being cared for financially was marrying someone with money.

Mrs. Bennet's pursuit of husbands for her daughters often motivated her to act foolishly and annoyingly. Patience was often the necessary ingredient for Mr. Bennet to endure his wife's folly. After more than twenty years of marriage, he had learned to patiently tolerate his wife's foolishness.

Practicing patience, tolerance, and kindness is vital to any relationship, especially marriage.

DAY TI	HRFF
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"Oh! single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!"

"How so? How can it affect them?"

"My dear Mr. Bennet," replied his wife, "how can you be so tiresome! You must know that I am thinking of his marrying one of them."

"Is that his design in settling here?"

"Design! nonsense, how can you talk so! But it is very likely that he may fall in love with one of them, and therefore you must visit him as soon as he comes."

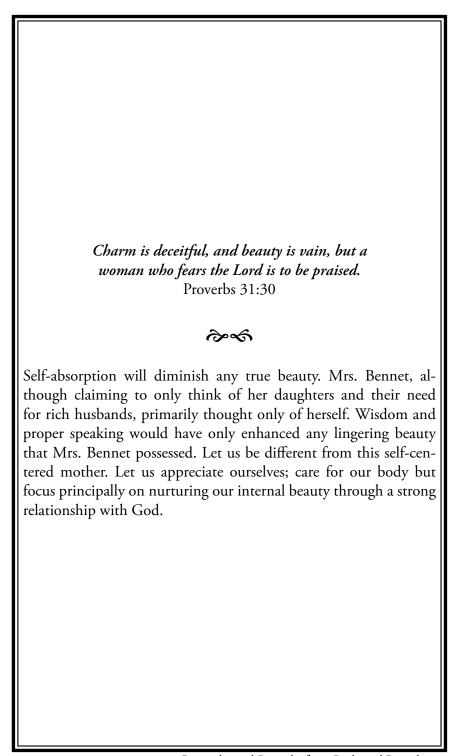
"I see no occasion for that. You and the girls may go, or you may send them by themselves, which perhaps will be still better, for as you are as handsome as any of them, Mr. Bingley may like you the best of the party." Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.

Proverbs 23:4

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Mr. Bennet's toying with his wife was a game he often played. The custom of the day insisted that introductions be formal. As the head of his home, Mr. Bennet was expected to pay a visit to Mr. Bingley before any of the rest of the family would have a chance to get to know him. Mr. Bennet was the key to one of his daughters marrying this new young neighbor; as he well knew; and he thoroughly enjoyed the idea of pretending that he would not pay the visit.

Often other people in our lives attempt to steer our direction and decision-making with their goals for our lives. Scheming ways to become rich, especially through marriage, contradicts Biblical principles, and often leads to misery. Neither Mr. Bennet, nor Mrs. Bennet take seriously the role they are playing in the lives of their daughters.



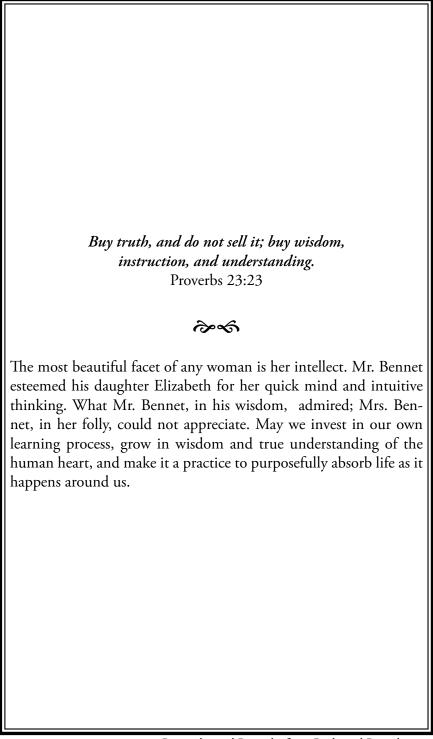
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"I dare say Mr. Bingley will be very glad to see you; and I will send a few lines by you to assure him of my hearty consent to his marrying whichever he chooses of the girls; though I must throw in a good word for my little Lizzy."

"I desire you will do no such thing. Lizzy is not a bit better than the others; and I am sure she is not half so handsome as Jane, nor half so good-humored as Lydia. But you are always giving her the preference."

"They have none of them much to recommend them," replied he; "they are all silly and ignorant like other girls; but Lizzy has something more of quickness than her sisters."

"Mr. Bennet, how can you abuse your own children in such a way?"



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"Mr. Bennet, how can you abuse your own children in such a way? You take delight in vexing me. You have no compassion for my poor nerves."

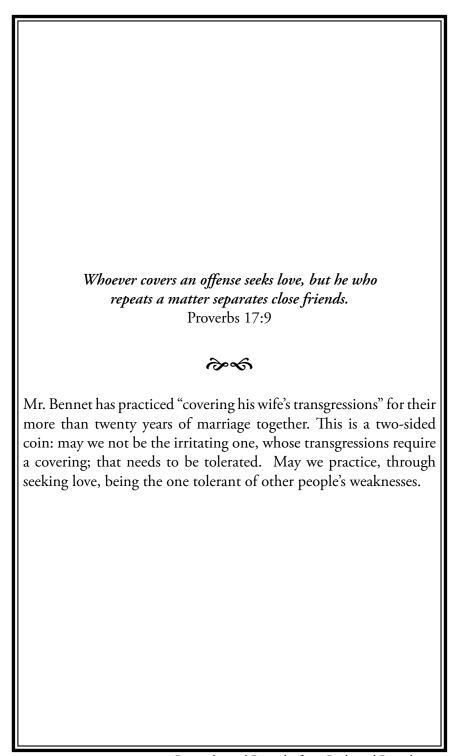
"You mistake me, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. I have heard you mention them with consideration these last twenty years at least."

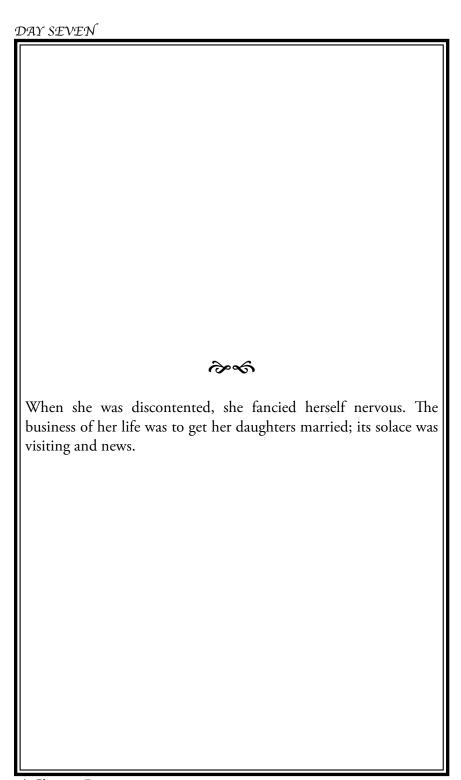
"Ah, you do not know what I suffer."

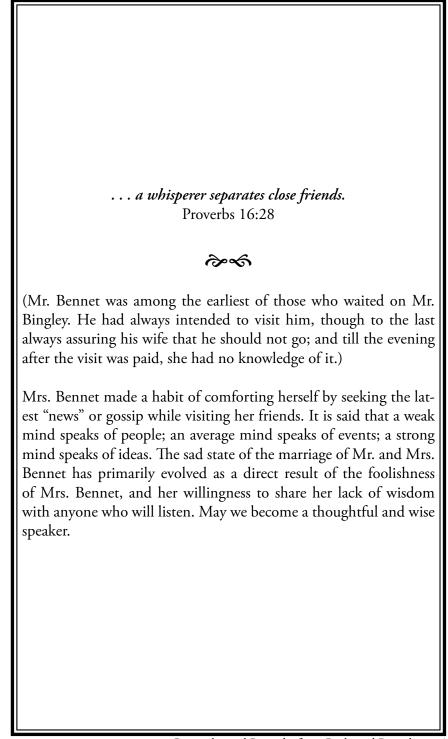
"But I hope you will get over it, and live to see many young men of four thousand a year come into the neighborhood."

"It will be no use to us, if twenty such should come, since you will not visit them."

"Depend upon it, my dear, that when there are twenty, I will visit them all."









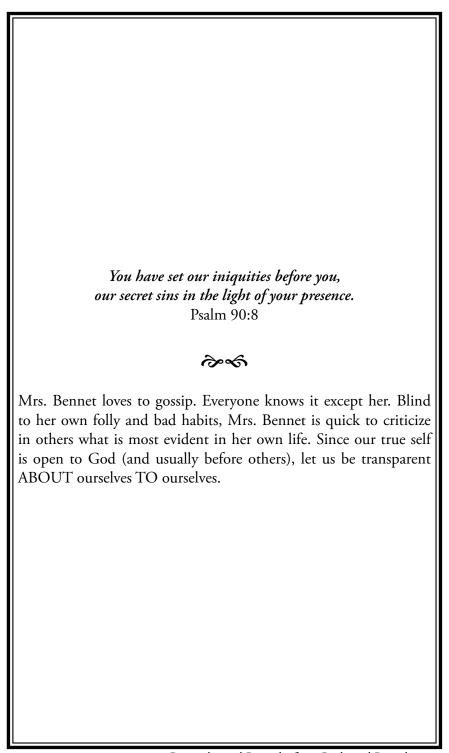
Mr. Bennet was among the earliest of those who waited on Mr. Bingley. He had always intended to visit him, though to the last always assuring his wife that he should not go; and till the evening after the visit was paid she had no knowledge of it. It was then disclosed in the following manner. Observing his second daughter employed in trimming a hat, he suddenly addressed her with,

"I hope Mr. Bingley will like it, Lizzy."

"We are not in a way to know *what* Mr. Bingley likes," said her mother resentfully, "since we are not to visit."

"But you forget, mamma," said Elizabeth, "that we shall meet him at the assemblies, and that Mrs. Long promised to introduce him."

"I do not believe Mrs. Long will do any such thing. She has two nieces of her own. She is a selfish, hypocritical woman, and I have no opinion of her."





The girls stared at their father. Mrs. Bennet said only, "Nonsense, nonsense!"

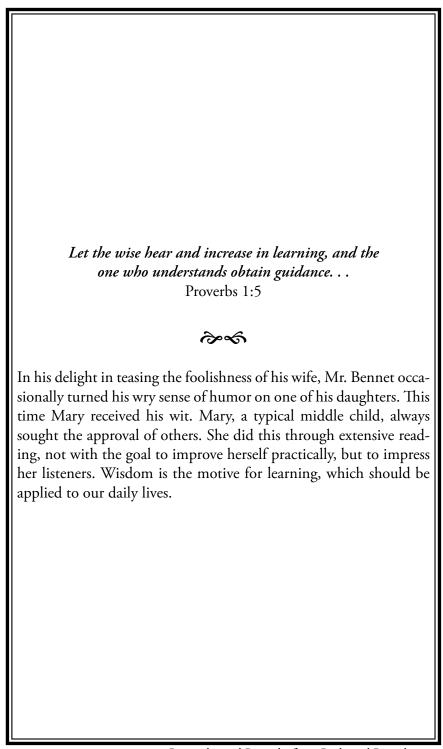
"What can be the meaning of that emphatic exclamation?" cried he. "Do you consider the forms of introduction, and the stress that is laid on them, as nonsense? I cannot quite agree with you there. What say you, Mary? For you are a young lady of deep reflection, I know, and read great books and make extracts."

Mary wished to say something very sensible, but knew not how.

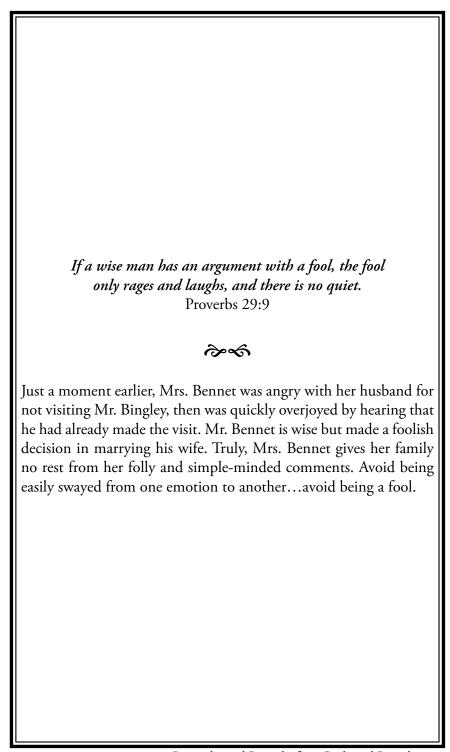
"While Mary is adjusting her ideas," he continued, "let us return to Mr. Bingley."

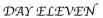
"I am sick of Mr. Bingley," cried his wife.

"I am sorry to hear *that*; but why did not you tell me that before? If I had known as much this morning I certainly would not have called on him. It is very unlucky; but as I have actually paid the visit, we cannot escape the acquaintance now."



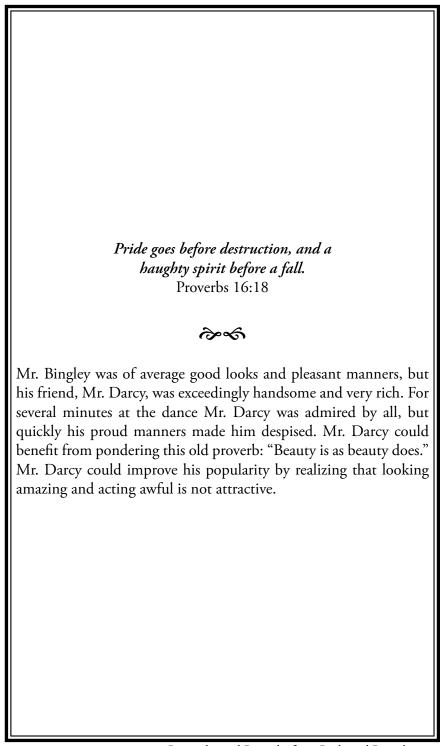
DAY TEN
"How good it was in you, my dear Mr. Bennet! But I knew I should persuade you at last. I was sure you loved your girls too well to neglect such an acquaintance. Well, how pleased I am! and it is such a good joke, too, that you should have gone this morning and never said a word about it till now."







A few weeks later at the first assembly dance that Mr. Bingley attended with his guests, he was declared to be good looking and gentlemanlike...but his friend Mr. Darcy soon drew the attention of the room by his fine, tall person, handsome features, and his noble mien. The report in general circulation within five minutes was...of his having ten thousand a year. He was admired till his manners gave a disgust, which turned his popularity. For he was discovered to be proud...and above being pleased. Not all his large estate in Derbyshire could then save him from having the most forbidding, disagreeable countenance, and being unworthy of being compared to his friend.



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"Come, Darcy," said he, "I must have you dance. I hate to see you standing about by yourself in this stupid manner. You had much better dance."

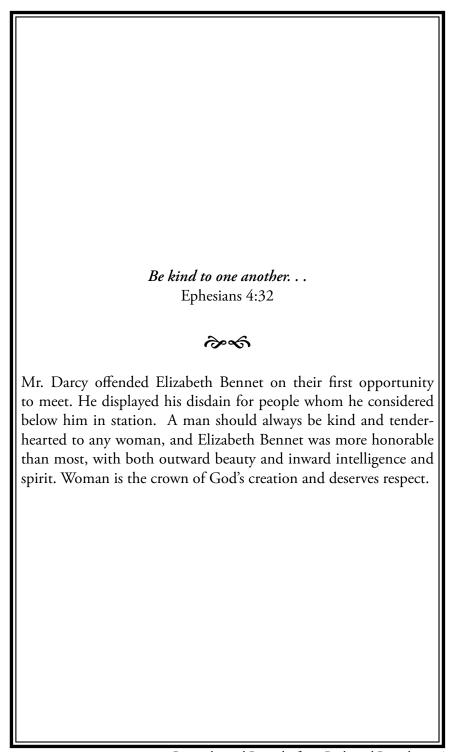
"I certainly shall not. You know how I detest it, unless I am particularly acquainted with my partner. At such an assembly as this it would be insupportable. Your sisters are engaged, and there is not another woman in the room whom it would not be a punishment to me to stand up with."

"I would not be so fastidious as you are," cried Mr. Bingley, "for a kingdom! Upon my honor, I never met with so many pleasant girls in my life as I have this evening; and there are several of them you see uncommonly pretty."

"You are dancing with the only handsome girl in the room," said Mr. Darcy, looking at the eldest Miss Bennet.

"Oh! She is the most beautiful creature I ever beheld! But there is one of her sisters sitting down just behind you, who is very pretty, and I dare say very agreeable. Do let me ask my partner to introduce you."

"Which do you mean?" and turning round he looked for a moment at Elizabeth, till catching her eye, he withdrew his own and coldly said: "She is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me; I am in no humor at present to give consequence to young ladies who are slighted by other men."



### Principles and Proverbs from Pride and Prejudice



Chrisann Dawson

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Chrisann has been writing her whole life. As a child, she started hundreds of stories that she never finished.

She has taught high school English Grammar and Composition for more than twenty years and was blessed by the opportunity to teach English as a second language in the Congo, Africa through the Lingala language.

Chrisann is now finishing her stories. Lots of them. Shine-A-Light Press will be publishing her trilogy of novels inspired by her time in the Congo in 2021.

She has three adult children and currently lives in Northern Arizona with her husband, Gale.