

Proverbs 6:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Analysis

Proud look - literally 'haughty eyes' - heads the list of seven abominations. Pride of the eyes represents internal arrogance manifested in contemptuous looks. That pride tops the list suggests it's the root sin from which others flow. The eyes reflecting heart attitude makes external demeanor reveal internal character. Humble eyes reflect humble heart; haughty eyes betray proud heart.

Historical Context

Part of numerical saying listing seven abominations (vv.16-19). Ancient culture read much from facial expressions and demeanor; haughty eyes communicated disdain and contempt.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do your facial expressions and demeanor communicate either humility or pride?
2. What internal attitudes produce the external 'look' you present to others?

Interlinear Text

רִאֵתָ תְּמִתָּהּ וְלִשְׁתָּוֹן כַּאֲשֶׁר לְשָׁנָה וְלִשְׁתָּוֹן כַּאֲשֶׁר שְׁפַּךְ תְּהִרְבֵּר בְּדִם יְהִרְבֵּר
look A proud tongue a lying and hands that shed blood innocent
H5869 H7311 H3956 H8267 H3027 H8210 H1818 H5355

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 12:22 (Parallel theme): Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

Isaiah 1:15 (Blood): And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Psalms 101:5 (Parallel theme): Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

Psalms 5:6 (Blood): Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.

Isaiah 3:9 (Parallel theme): The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Proverbs 21:4 (Parallel theme): An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

Deuteronomy 27:25 (Parallel theme): Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Isaiah 3:16 (Parallel theme): Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:

Psalms 18:27 (Parallel theme): For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

Proverbs 26:28 (Parallel theme): A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

