

"All of our personal and corporate life is our testimony, the consequences of our spiritual experience. The whole of the early books of faith and practice were descriptions of Quaker testimony, and I get worried about the shorthand list of "the testimonies" we use today: peace, equality, integrity, simplicity. First, we need to remember these abstractions are creations of the last century. Until the late 19th century, friends were against war and in favor of plainness, not peace and simplicity. Second, It seems we opt in and out of concepts such as "peace" and "simplicity" and diffuse as they are, interpret them individually. Third, it seems, we often forget the spiritual basis of testimony and perceive our testimonies merely as a set of values. As (Isaac) Pennington said of the basis of our witness, "make the tree good, or its fruit can never be good."

"Confident Quakerism" by Ben Pink Dandelion, p. 15, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 410