Pleb Principles

Values

Principles arise from your value hierarchy. Some values that Plebs seem to highly appreciate according to my observations:

1. Truth. No bullshitting
2. Courage
3. Freedom and Responsibility
4. Wisdom
5. Loyalty to bitcoin. No shitcoinery
6. Proof of Work, diligence
7. Vigilance
8. Temperance, Future orientedness, Low time preference, Patience
9. Focus of energy, guarding your time
10. Humbleness
11. Honor, Integrity: your actions say more. Hold yourself to promises.
12. Honesty, sincerity: You seek and try to say the Truth
13. Shoshin/Beginner's mentality. Always be learning
14. Self control, serenity, equanimity. Price agnosticism, emotional control
15. Frugality
16. Localism, tribal mentality
17. Community contribution
18. Generosity. Sharing your knowledge, sharing your discoveries as free and open-source
19. Sanctity of Life, Liberty and Property

These values have a substantial overlap with the bushido code and the chivalry code of medieval times. You might want to study these as cultural reference points to bitcoin pleb culture.

Principles

1. **Choose your allies wisely.**
   a. Choose people who share your values and principles
   b. Have a strong social network of like-minded people.

  c. Keep contact with friends/family abroad. You can never know.

2. **Never stop learning and improving your character.**
  a. Talk about Bitcoin. Meetups, online discussions…
  b. Don't shy away from getting help. Many times professionals seek help or get a sanity check on their choices. Asking for help is a virtue not a weakness. But try to practice due diligence to be able to tackle the issue precisely which will resolve it sooner. Don't waste other's time.
  c. Help other Bitcoiners: This one is grossly overlooked in my opinion how much you can learn by helping others with their issues.
  d. Test ideas, try new things, get your hands dirty. Experiment. Careful with real funds though. Use testnet as a training ground.
  e. Read books and articles. Listen to [useful] podcasts

3. Keep developing your own principles and best practices.
4. Prioritize your time and energy. These are your scarcest resources.
  a. Don't let perfection be the enemy of good.
  b. Get organized and don't waste your time on noise.
  c. Simplicity helps you focus and conserve energy. Overcomplication is very common. If you have two similar options for something, always choose the simpler.
  d. Think in probabilities and spectrums instead of a binary, black and white, do or die mindset. Keep in mind that threats don't occur with the same probabilities and carry different risks. It is beneficial to know how often these threats occur in the wild but at the same time adjust the probabilities to your situation. If you are forgetful, or you live in an area where robbery is more common, or the level of your IT skills…these all modify the risk factors of the individual threats. Prioritize your actions accordingly. Typical mistakes:
   i. "I am doxxed already, NoKYC doesn't matter."
   ii. "This is just too complex for me so I don't care."
   iii. "This will never happen to me so I just ignore this possibility."

5. Don't trust, verify.

About trust:

People say don't trust, verify. But this time I say, if you don't trust anyone or anything at all, you are alone and weak. You definitely need allies if you want to succeed.

No trust at all is just foolish and dishonest as well. You did not mine the silicon to produce your own chips from which you manufacture your own computers. You did not write your own programming language and the compiler necessary to translate that to machine code. You verify people and things as far as your skills and trust level allows for.

Point being that anything you do, you are still somewhat trusting and that is not bad. However, you should be aware of these trust relationships you have.

- a. Double-check, Cross-check, verify signatures, verify downloads
- b. Cross-check your sources of information. Trusting anyone blindly can quickly become a liability.
- c. If it is a crucial matter, try to get at least 3 independent opinions from all sides you can possibly think of. Proof of Work pays off in terms of your peace of mind.

6. Do your own research. Think on your own.

- a. I can tell you from personal experience. This actually matters really, really much.
  I have lost count on how many times I felt so angry and shameful whenever I took advice for absolutely granted.
  No one can EVER take full responsibility for your choices and there is a 99% chance you will regret not looking into something at all.

7. Take privacy seriously

- a. Think before you act: Almost all of your actions have privacy implications in Bitcoin
- b. Don't brag about your stash or share security/privacy details with untrusted people. Locations, names, concrete amounts etc. Stay humble or get rekt.
- c. Deceive and confuse your enemies. Use baits and misinformation. Smoke and mirrors. Your enemies'

uncertainty is your strength. Just don't confuse yourself.

8. Always think of the potential trade-offs of your choices. Examples:
   a. Convenient and centralized solutions tend to be less secure and private. More secure/private solutions tend to introduce inconvenience and additional costs.
   b. The more verification the more knowledge, work and time required but more security is gained.
   c. The more backups the safer against loss but makes you more prone to attacks. Few backups means higher risk of loss but less prone to attacks.

9. Be an adversarial thinker but don't panic. Rush is an enemy of security. Remember: Your enemies want you to make a mistake. And when you make one mistake, they want you to panic and screw it all up.
   a. You will take your time and resist panicking. Take a deep breath and think, meditate
   b. You will develop strong habits and rituals to prep for critical operations
   c. You will keep your body and mind trained. This will be a strong foundation as a Pleb.

10. Donate to worthy projects and contribute where you can

I hope that these help you contemplate your own Pleb Principles and build your Citadel.