



INTEGRITY

(Sunday September 26, 2004)

- It is a sad thing to see Christians/Believers lying, walking dishonestly, cheating, etc. It is even worse when we see pastors/ministers doing these things.

Our objective today is to:

- Stir up within us a desire and commitment to integrity
- Awaken us to the blessings of walking in integrity
- Allow the Lord to do a work in us – breaking bondages that are holding people and changing us in this area.

We will discuss:

- Instructions on Integrity
- God Examines And Knows Our Integrity (or the lack of it)
- Why Do We Still Compromise Our Integrity?
- The Consequences of Dishonesty
- The Blessings Of the Upright
- Response – Deliverance, Repentance, Renunciation, Consecration

INSTRUCTIONS ON INTEGRITY

Proverbs 6:16-19

God hates a lying tongue, a false witness and a heart that devises evil ideas.

Proverbs 12:22

Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

- God delights in us when we deal truthfully.

Exodus 23:6-8

- Keep yourself from a false matter, do not use bribes.
- **Example:** At work, when your colleague calls and requests you to inform the boss that he is sick and will not be coming to work, when in reality he wants to go to the movies (or do something else), and you pass on that lie to the boss – You have become a partner in that lie!! The Bible tells us to stay away from a false matter. You must stay out of such things.

Psalms 34:13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Romans 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

2 Corinthians 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

- **It is not sufficient to be right in God's eyes. We have to right in the sight of man also.**
- **Example:** If a person in great need embezzles Rs. 100,000/- and says that God understands because he is being paid so little, and that he has such great needs. That God knows his heart, that he is a sincere worker, honest in all other things, etc. etc. and claims the blood of Christ to cover him....**this is not enough. Man does not see your heart, man see the accounts** – that there is Rs. 100,000/- missing!

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.



1Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles....

- Even the unbelievers have to see our integrity!

GOD EXAMINES AND KNOWS OUR INTEGRITY (or the lack of it)

Psalms 7:8 Psalms 26:1-2

- You can ask for God to vindicate you **only** after you have walked in integrity.

Jeremiah 23:23-24

Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD.

- God sees every little thing we do, even things we try to keep from any other person.
- **God observes the untruths that are being typed on a resume. God observes the numbers being manipulated on a balance sheet. God observes the false statements being put on a report!!**

Hebrews 4:13

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

WHY DO WE STILL COMPROMISE OUR INTEGRITY?

Many of us have been taught these truths from our youth – and yet we compromise on our integrity so easily. Why is that? Here are some reasons:

1. No Genuine Fear of God – Taking God's Grace For Granted

Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

We have overemphasized the grace of God to the point where believers, preachers and ministers have made light of having a genuine fear of God! For, if we truly feared God, we would depart from dishonesty, lying, etc.

2. Fear of man

Some times we lie out of fear of the person we are talking to. We need to overcome the fear of man! Be bold enough to speak the truth and walk in righteousness – regardless of who you are dealing with!

3. Fear of consequences

Be bold enough to walk truthfully, regardless of the consequence. Remember, when you walk honestly, God is on your side!

4. Reputation / Pride

People lie to save their pride and reputation.

5. Living by convenience instead of conviction

Some are honest only when it is convenient. There is no genuine conviction to walk in honesty at all times. Hence, under pressure, they take the “easy” way out – lying or dealing unrighteously.

6. Afraid to Displease / Hurt

Sometimes people lie because they don't want to hurt the person they are speaking to. **A lie is a lie is a lie – even if you did it out of a good intention!**

7. Trying To Be Nice By Covering Up

Sometimes people lie when they try to cover up for another dear friend. **A lie, is a lie is a lie – regardless of how sincere you are!**



Remember this: Truth can stand by itself. Truth does not need to be defended by lies!

THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISHONESTY

Proverbs 19:5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

- **We often lie to escape out of a tight situation – without realizing that we are entangling ourselves in a bigger trap!**

Proverbs 20:17 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

- **Dishonesty may seem a “quick & easy” way, but its consequences will soon catch up!**

Proverbs 21:6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Proverbs 29:12 If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

- **When a person in leadership is dishonest, all those under him will follow in the same path!**

Hosea 10:13 Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies:

- **There is a “fruit of lies” which we will have to for every lie we sow!**

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

- **When we lie, we are participating in satan's works!**

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

- **The ultimate consequence – liars go to hell!**

THE BLESSINGS OF THE UPRIGHT

There are several blessings that we find in Scripture. Here is a short listing:

Blessing & Favour

Psalms 5:12 For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

Preservation

Psalms 25:21

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Permanent Security

Proverbs 12:19 The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Clarity / Light

Psalms 97:11 Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

Preservation & Answered Prayer

Psalms 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Psalms 34:17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.



Legacy

Proverbs 20:7

The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

RESPONSE – DELIVERANCE, REPENTANCE, RENUNCIATION, CONSECRATION

1. Break bondages to a lying spirit

A lying spirit 1 Kings 22:22-23 / 2 Chronicles 18:21,22

2. Change Your Attitude Towards Lying

Proverbs 13:5 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

Psalms 119:163 I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.

Although we know that dishonesty is not acceptable before God, we are tolerant to it in ourselves and others. Move from this position of being tolerant to a new position where you are intolerant towards any form of dishonesty.

Be determined to speak the truth even when it hurts.

3. Refuse To Partner With Dishonesty

Psalms 101:7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

Don't participate on other people's dishonesty.

4. Prayer of Consecration

Psalms 141:3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

Psalms 119:29 Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>