

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

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INTEGRITY

Integrity is defined in the dictionary as an “adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty. It is also the state of being whole, entire, or undiminished.” A whole, undiminished person that holds to their principles. Integrity is an important quality to have as we live a life on this earth. People should see Christ in us, so therefore we should show the integrity that He showed in everything that we do. If we do not have integrity, our light is diminished and we are not truly following God or showing God’s light through our lives.

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David knew the importance of integrity. Did David always live a life of integrity? No, it is well documented that he had his transgressions, but it is also documented that he always returned to following God and living in a way that was pleasing to Him. In the 26th Psalm he talks about walking in his integrity and what he does to help show it.

Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth. I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD. (Psa. 26:1-12)

God recognized the integrity that David possessed. He acknowledged it when he appeared to Solomon after the house of the Lord was completed and admonished him to show the same integrity that his father had done.

And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have

commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel. (1 Kings 9:3-5)

There are many examples throughout history of leaders who had integrity, and if you look closely at their lives, you see that their faith in God is what drove this trait in them. So how do we walk in integrity? It begins with always being honest.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Php. 4:8)

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. (Luke 8:15)

Telling a lie is never the right answer, even if the truth hurts. If someone knows that you are not always truthful, they cannot always tell when to believe what you are saying. This does not mean that you should be intentionally hurtful to someone. If there is a hard truth to tell, you must do it in a way that is helpful so that the person knows that you care about them. If you are known as someone who speaks in a hurtful way, that also can affect the perception of your integrity.

Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. (Col. 4:6)

Another way we show integrity is in how we live and the decisions that we make. Do we live in a way that shows moral uprightness or do we spend more time living for the world than we do living for God? Think about what you do when you have a problem. Do you go to a bar and drink your problem away, or do you pray about it asking God for help? Living a moral

life does not just mean to follow rules and laws, it means to live in a way that is pleasing to God. To live in a way that shows Christ through us. Sometimes doing so when the laws of the land do not follow the moral code that God intends for us. We must be a good example to all the people who are around us in everything that we do.

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Mat. 5:13-16)

Living with integrity means that Christ's light is always shining through us because we are showing conviction to the moral standards that God has laid out for us in His Word. We must live a whole, undiminished life and the only way to do that is to follow God and to do all that He asks of us. That means allowing God into your life and following all the steps of salvation without fail. If you do not do all that you should do to allow God into your life, you will not have a whole life and there will still be something incomplete in you. Doing so means to look at all scriptures and to follow all scriptures, not just choosing the ones that fit the narrative that you would like to believe. We do this while also remembering that the path to salvation changed when Christ was crucified.

Having integrity is a vital part of how we should be living our lives. One of the more famous examples of someone keeping their integrity despite trials and tribulations is found in the story of Job. Satan did all that he could to break Job's spirit, but Job never forgot that he was serving God. Job never lost his integrity.

My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live. (Job 27:4-6)

We should all strive to have the same conviction that Job had. Knowing that no matter what happens to us on this earth, God is for us and that we need to do all that we can to live for Him and in a way pleasing unto Him.

The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them. (Pro. 11:3)

Not only does integrity help our walk with God, but others around us see it and will hopefully follow it. Especially knowing that the character of our children is often strongly influenced by our actions.

The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him. (Pro. 20:7)

David asked to be judged according to his righteousness and the integrity that is in him.

The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me. (Psa. 7:8)

Would you be comfortable saying the same thing as you are standing before God?

A. D.

WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED ?

- Be receptive to the Gospel (Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 3:15)
- Believe in Jesus (John 8:24; John 3:16; Mark 16:15- 16)
- Repent and turn to God (Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30-31)
- Confess the Lord Jesus (Mat. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:10)
- Be baptized for the remission of sins (Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:38)
- Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; Mat. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9)

MURMUR NOT AMONG YOURSELVES

The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven? Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. (John 6:41-43)

In the passage above we find an instance of the Jews murmuring (complaining) against Jesus. Throughout the Bible we find many examples of complaining, especially in the Old Testament concerning the children of Israel. Friends, how often do you complain? And why do you complain? Is it necessary?

Do you complain when you see something that you disagree with?

And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them. But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? (Luke 5:29-30)

Do you complain when you get less than you think you deserve?

So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house... (Mat. 20:8-11)

Do you complain when you are doubted, when you are not satisfied, or when you are envious? Or do you complain to be heard, to get attention, or to let your troubles be known?

If so, then consider this: It is a fact that complaining annoys God.

And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them

that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. (Num. 11:1)
Therefore we should control our tongues so that *“there be no complaining in our streets.”* (Psa. 144:14b)

It is another fact that our “complaining words” will be judged by God.

Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. (Jude 1:14b-16)

Finally, we are all commanded NOT to murmur. God's Word is very plain on this!

Do all things without murmurings and disputings: (Php 2:14)
Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. (1 Cor. 10:10)

As Job once put it, *“If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself”* (Job 9:27).

So instead of complaining, let us all try to search out the good around us. Complaints show a pessimistic attitude. But a Christian is optimistic. He will have a happy attitude and will look at the bright side of life. Surely you can do no wrong if you obey the voice of Jesus: *“Murmur not among yourselves.”*

RAY MCMANUS

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
August 4 - 7	Owens Road Prattville, AL	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 19 - 21	Pleasant Ridge Woodbury, TN	Timothy Lewis (Eubank, KY)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who was the first child born?
2. Which of David's sons rebelled against him?
3. What happened to Daniel after he gave thanks to God by his open window?
4. What job did the Prodigal Son end up taking after he had spent his inheritance?
5. What type of coin did Judas accept as payment for betraying Jesus?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. Who was instructed by God to leave his home and family to travel to a country he did not know?
ABRAHAM (ABRAM) (Gen. 12:1)
2. Which of his wives did Jacob love the most?
RACHEL (Gen. 29:30)
3. Aaron turned his rod into a serpent before Pharaoh, and Pharaoh's magicians did likewise, but what happened to their serpents?
AARON'S ROD SWALLOWED THEM (Exo. 7:12)
4. When Jesus asked "whom say ye that I am?" what did Peter reply?
"THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD" (Mat. 16:16)
5. Which garden did Jesus go to, to pray in before his arrest?
GETHSEMANE (Mat. 26:36)