



Lecture 2

Spiritual Integrity

Our Heavenly Father has given clear instructions, indeed orders, to enable us to navigate our lives here on earth with integrity and dignity, giving honour to God with our attitude of submission and obedience.

Without full obedience to God's Word we cannot develop spiritual integrity.

Proverbs 4:20-27 (NASB)

My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart. for they are life to those who find them and health to all their body. Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put devious speech far from you. Let your eyes look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.

Can we fully obey God's Word? Not in the flesh, not in our own strength, but by the Holy Spirit indwelling us. God has given us His Word and the power to obey it.

Philippians 2:13 (Wuest translation)

"for God is the One who is constantly putting forth His energy in you, both in the form of your being desirous of and of your doing His good pleasure."

To live with integrity is to follow the example of Christ. Again, we can only live with true integrity by His power, which He graciously and freely gives to all who belong to Him.

Developing spiritual integrity enables us to experience God's blessings and His plan for us; it opens the door to a special relationship with Jesus. Lack of integrity, on the other hand, does the exact opposite: it will steal our peace and affect our relationship with God, it will open a door to the enemy to harass us.

Spiritual integrity will protect us and cause us to grow more and more into the image of Christ. **It will solve problems in your life and enable you to avoid accumulating more problems.** Integrity also brings healing and wholeness to our whole being.

The following Scriptures show us God's position with the topic of integrity. God demands our loyalty. He seeks people who put him first above everything and everyone else in their life:

2 Samuel 22:26 (NLT)

"To the faithful you show yourself faithful; to those with integrity you show integrity."

2 Samuel 22:26 (NKJV)

"With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful;

With a blameless [upright] man You will show Yourself blameless [upright];

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One of the rewards of integrity is pleasing the heart of God. We show our love for God through obedience and an eagerness to bring joy to our Heavenly Father.

1 Chronicles 29:17 (NASB)

“Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You.”

God singled out Job as the ideal example of a man of integrity. The Lord cherishes followers like Job who choose Him and faithfully serve Him no matter what:

Job 2:3 (NLT)

The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.”

Integrity should be the hallmark of a Christian. Temptation is all around, but God is our rescuer and refuge. We can depend on God to be victorious in this life:

Psalms 25:19-21 (NASB)

Look upon my enemies, for they are many, And they hate me with violent hatred. Guard my soul and deliver me; do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You. Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all his troubles.

Our integrity does not earn us our salvation, but it does bring God's approval. Know the truth and live it:

INTEGRITY BRINGS HARMONY BETWEEN THE SOUL AND THE SPIRIT. IT PRODUCES PEACE, REST AND TRUTH IN EVERY PART OF THE BELIEVER.

Lack of integrity is simply not living in the truth. John 8:31 teaches us that the truth always sets free. That is, the truth about who we are in Christ, the truth about ourselves and our relationship with others and with God.

It is not about perfection, as much we need to seek perfection. We are imperfect, but God looks at the heart. Spiritual integrity is developed as we live by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in us.

Romans 12:2 (Wuest translation)

“And stop assuming an outward expression that does not come from within you and is not representative of what you are in your inner being but is patterned after this age; but change your outward expression to one that comes from within and is representative of your inner being, by the renewing of your mind, resulting in your putting to the test what is the will of God, the good and well-pleasing and complete will, and having found that it meets specifications, place your approval upon it.”

A Christian's integrity can be measured by the degree to which they live as a new creation in Christ, dependent on the Holy Spirit and God's Word. Living in this world by the flesh with a “ticket to heaven” while failing to represent Jesus by living from our inner being, is the life of a defeated Christian. This kind of life is dangerous - it opens a door to the enemy.