

What Has Happened To Integrity Of Christians Today?

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When deciding about whether to be truthful or deceptive, fair or dishonest, just or unjust, men often consider the “trade-offs” involved with those without integrity. They will be honest if they feel it would be to their advantage; but they will just as quickly, and without hesitation, decide to be dishonest if they think the price of honesty is too high. Such people are obviously highly untrustworthy, unpredictable and without moral samples. You can't expect them to tell the truth unless they believed it was advantageous to them. Therefore, no one can ever really be sure if they are telling the truth about anything.

Because of selfishness, gossiping, and greed, vast numbers in casting off integrity have set themselves on a course of self-destruction. *“The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of treacherous shall destroy them.”* (Prov. 11:3).

Integrity has been defined as “soundness of moral principle and character, complete honesty and uprightness with no masking of intent.” Its opposite is hypocrisy, deceit, and fraud. If a person has integrity, he does not put on a false front or wear an artificial mask, as it were. He will be openly honest and worthy of complete trust in all that he says or does, as opposed to one who is deceptive or makes false claims. This includes lying, stealing, cheating, or any other form of deception. King David described a person of integrity in Psalm 15:1-4: *“Jehovah, who shall abide in the tabernacle? Who shall dwell in the holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbors. In those eyes a vile person is condemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.”*

We can live as our Saviour did when he walked on this earth. He was transparently honest. He never tried to hide anything, for there was nothing in his life about which he was ashamed. Jesus never lied to anyone or never cheated a single person. He not only never resorted to verbal gymnastics, or any other kind of deception, to mislead and confuse or to cover up what he meant but he always clearly told the truth regardless of the outcome or consequences. He was loving, fair, just, and righteous to all men.

Integrity, therefore, is always expensive, it cost the son of God his life.

Instead of pointing accusing fingers to our fellow workers in the vineyard of our Lord, let us learn to correct each other by pointing our fingers to the Holy Scriptures. Then the Holy Scripture will be

“...profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto good works.” (2 Tim. 3:16).

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