

Qualities Of A Pure Heart #2 – Integrity

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Introduction

1. In our last lesson we examined three qualities of the pure heart – it is undivided in its loyalty to God, it prioritizes all that we do based on the loyalty, and it is totally resolved to do what is pleasing to God. In this lesson we will examine the quality of integrity.

I. What Is Integrity?

- a. It is defined as “adherence to moral or ethical principles, soundness of moral character, honesty” or “a sound, unimpaired, or perfect condition”
- b. Integrity of the pure heart, describes one whose life is “intact” and who will not fall apart when tested.
- c. True men and women of integrity are rare indeed. Are you one of them?

II. The Bible And Integrity

- a. Titus 2:6-8 – is a good verse that demonstrates integrity
- b. 2 Peter 1:5 – The term “virtue” means “moral excellence” and its associated with one’s integrity describing one’s character that is upright and incorruptible
 - i. Integrity is fundamental to living Christian lives because our virtue will determine HOW we receive God’s word.
- c. Philippians 1:27-29 – Am I conducting myself in a manner worthy of the gospel?
- d. Romans 5:3-4 – As we go through trials and endure faithfully it will prove our integrity (see 1 Peter 1:6-7)
- e. Proverbs 10:9; 11:3; 19:1; 20:11; Psalm 7:9
 - i. These passages remind us that God is not impressed by outward appearances or impressions but only by inward integrity, character and authenticity!
 - ii. It has been said, “It takes a lifetime to build character. It takes only five minutes to destroy it.

III. Examples Of Integrity In The Bible

- a. Job – known for his suffering, he is also recorded for us because of his integrity. (Job 1:8, 21-22; 2:3,10)
- b. Moses – as a leader of Israel, his integrity is seen throughout. (Hebrews 11:24-26; 3:1-5; Numbers 16; 12:6-8; Deuteronomy 34:10)
- c. Daniel – as you examine his life, you see integrity throughout. (Daniel 6:3-5,10)
- d. Jesus – the ultimate example of integrity. (John 8:46)

IV. Some Thoughts About Integrity

- a. It is a necessary quality for leaders in the Lord’s church – elders (blameless 1 Tim 3:2), preachers (1 Tim 4:12,16), deacons (1 Tim 3:10 – tested and found blameless)
- b. The pure heart will clearly manifest integrity. It will not allow its character to be diminished by actions or words, nor to be morally corrupted. (James 5:12)
- c. Integrity is seen in one’s view of the word of God. There is a reason it comes before knowledge in our growth process (Acts 17:11; James 1:21 etc.)