

## A Theology of Integrity Teacher's Guide

- I. What is integrity: definitions
  - A. Theological: holding together, being internally consistent, having a coherent structure
  - B. Practical: who you are when nobody is watching
  - C. Doing the right thing when we are rightly related to God
  - D. Being honest and “square dealing” even when no one is around
  
- II. Views of Integrity
  - A. False
    1. a person of high integrity follow a better than average moral code or standard
    2. A person of high integrity is a good person (or at least a better than average person)
    3. Why these are false: they are man-centered; our flesh is naturally attracted to self-centeredness
  - B. True
    1. God determines what is right, based on His holiness
    2. Integrity that is God-centered means I focus on what God does, not on my own performance
  
- III. Concepts and words linked to integrity
  - A. Good words
    1. Character
    2. Honesty
    3. Justice
    4. Righteousness
    5. Godliness
  - B. Bad words
    1. Dishonesty
    2. Fraud
    3. Wickedness
    4. Hypocrisy
    5. Injustice
    6. Cheating
    7. Deception
  
- IV. God in Proverbs: what He is/does with a man who walks in His righteousness/integrity
  - A. He is a shield to that man 2:7
  - B. He causes them to live in the land 2:21
  - C. He causes that man to walk securely 10:9
  - D. He delights in him 11:20
  - E. He lays up sound wisdom for him 2:7
  - F. Future promises made
    1. His children will be blessed

2. They will have firm footing

- V. God in Proverbs: how God feels about a man who refuses to walk in His integrity
- A. He will cause defeat for him 2:7
  - B. His land will be taken from him 2:21
  - C. His sin will be found out 10:9
  - D. He detests men who walk this way 1:20
- VI. Why is integrity important to God?
- A. Integrity is closely related to righteousness
  - B. Righteousness is one of God's moral attributes Ps. 36:6
  - C. God's righteousness is intimately related to other attributes, such as His holiness
  - D. The Creator God is also the Redeemer, and His righteousness is interpreted through what He did on the cross to make atonement for us
  - E. In the Old Testament, a component of righteousness is reflected in relationship between God and man Ps. 50:6
  - F. Righteousness, used over 500 times in the Old Testament, applies to these individuals
    - 1. God Himself Ps. 119:137, 138, 144
    - 2. Rulers Ps. 45:4, 7; 72:1-7
    - 3. The people Ps. 32:11; 92:11
  - G. This ethical component of upright conduct appears throughout the Old Testament and reflects God's own righteousness Ps. 1:6; Prov. 8:20; 13:6; 16:13; 21:3
  - H. When we walk in God's integrity, we reflect God Himself to mankind in our dealings, and are most like God when we practice the righteousness that is found only in Him
- VII. Integrity from God's examples can reflect the godly walk of a righteous man
- A. Biblical writers use these words to describe the faith and life that is pleasing to God Ps. 4:3
    - 1. Righteousness
    - 2. Faith
    - 3. Steadfastness
    - 4. Holiness
  - B. When we live a life of integrity, we also reflect honesty
    - 1. Honesty with our fellow man Ps. 7:3, 4; 15:5; Prov. 11:1; 16:11; 20:10, 23
    - 2. Honesty in worship Ps. 24:4
    - 3. Honesty in our daily walk Prov. 4:25; 12:22
- VIII. How should the character of the saints be perceived?
- A. Bold Prov. 28:1
  - B. Godly Ps. 4:3
  - C. Humble Ps. 34:2
  - D. Lowly Prov. 16:19
  - E. Merciful Ps. 37:26
  - F. Prudent Prov. 16:21
  - G. undefiled Ps. 119:1
  - H. Upright Ps. 15:2

- IX. How lack of integrity by a Christian reflects poorly on God and our relationship with fellow mankind
- A. Righteousness is not only a relationship of God and man, but also man with man
    - 1. It promotes a failure to conform to a good relationship
    - 2. It detracts from the well-being and peace of community      Prov. 11:34
    - 3. It destroys attitudes of steadfastness, faithfulness, kindness, goodness, and holiness Ps. 12:1, 2
  - B. It exalts wicked actions such as are found in wicked people      Prov. 11:1; 20:10, 23
  - C. It implies consent to a wrong action      Ps. 50:18
  - D. It creates a false hope      Ps. 62:10; Prov. 20:17
  - E. It oppresses our fellow man with an unnecessary burden      Prov. 3:27, 28
- X. How the character of a wicked man is perceived
- A. Boastful      Ps. 10:3; 49:6
  - B. Conspires against the saints      Ps. 38:12
  - C. Deceitful      Ps. 5:6
  - D. It delights in others' iniquity      Prov. 2:14
  - E. An enticement to do evil      Prov. 1:10-14
  - F. Fearful      Prov. 28:1
  - G. Fierce      Prov. 16:29
  - H. Foolish      Ps. 5:5
  - I. Fraudulent      Ps. 37:21
  - J. Perverse      Prov. 21:8
  - K. Loathsome      Prov. 13:5
  - L. Lying      Ps. 58:3; 62:4
  - M. Mischievous      Prov. 24:8
  - N. Proud      Ps. 59:12
  - O. Unjust      Prov. 11:7
  - P. Ungodly      Prov. 16:27
- XI. Based on what we have shared, how do you want to be seen in all of your dealings?
- A. Building on the foundation of God's holiness and love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith that reflects God's holiness and righteousness. Or
  - B. One who prefers to rely on an unstable foundation of self-righteousness that will disappoint, knowing the fallen human nature
  - C. Choose the way of righteousness that is found only in Jesus Christ