

From the Pastor

Week of August 10, 2008

Proverbs 11:3

³ The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
NIV

“If there is one flagrant flaw in the moral character of people today it is the lack of integrity in both public and private life.” This statement was made in a recent “Guidelines” article (www.guidelines.org) that went on to say, “One of the reasons that youth today are so cynical about life is that dishonesty is so common they disbelieve almost everything and everyone.... Politicians say one thing on one occasion and reverse themselves, affirming the very opposite, a few days later. (The lack of) honesty in both public and private life is a reflection of the lack of integrity in people today.”

Chuck Swindoll says that “integrity is simply doing what you say you are going to do.” Unquestionably, keeping your word -- telling it like it really is without embellishment or exaggeration -- is a reflection of integrity.

Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary says that integrity is being incorruptible or complete, “firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values, utter sincerity, honesty and candor.”

Integrity is mentioned some 40 times in the Bible and refers to “being upright in heart, honest in your actions, committed to doing right regardless of the cost.” People of integrity are not driven by public opinion but by a conviction that there is both a right and a wrong. In this way Jesus Christ was recognized as a man of character and integrity not only by His followers but also by His enemies. The Pharisees “sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are.” (Matt 22:15-16 NIV)

May God raise up men and women of integrity, with moral convictions that produce character and courage for this generation.

Proverbs 19:1

Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.
NKJV