

# A Theology of Integrity



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# What is integrity?

- Theological: holding together, being internally consistent, having a coherent structure
- Practical: who you are when nobody is watching
- Doing the right thing when we are rightly related to God
- Being honest and “square dealing” even when no one is around

# False Views of Integrity

- A person of high integrity follow a better than average moral code or standard
- A person of high integrity is a good person (or at least a better than average person)

# Why these are false

- They are man-centered
- Our flesh is naturally attracted to self-centeredness

# True Views of Integrity

- God determines what is right, based on His holiness
- Integrity that is God-centered means I focus on what God does, not on my own performance



# Concepts and words linked to integrity

Good words

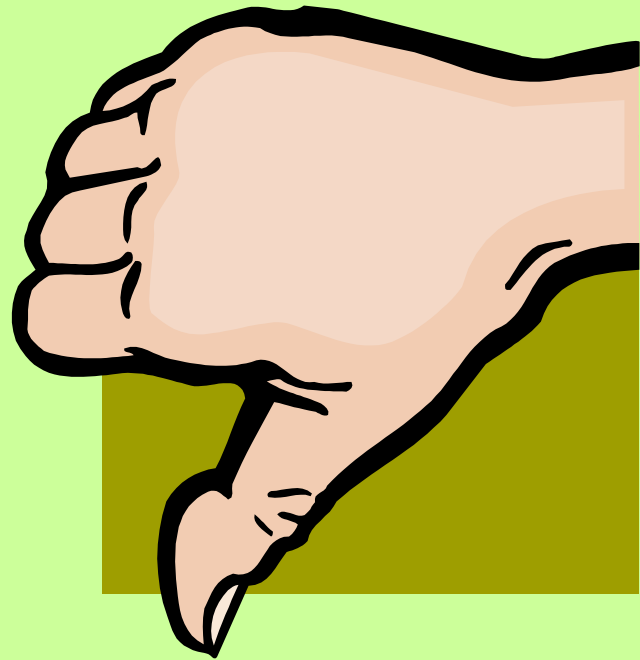


- Character
- Honesty
- Justice
- Righteousness
- Godliness

Concepts and words  
linked to integrity

Bad Words

- Dishonesty
- Fraud
- Wickedness
- Hypocrisy
- Injustice
- Cheating
- Deception



# God in Proverbs

What He is/does with a man who  
walks in His  
righteousness/integrity

- He is a shield to that man 2:7
- He causes them to live in the land 2:21
- He causes that man to walk securely 10:9
- He delights in him 11:20
- He lays up sound wisdom for him 2:7



# Future promises made

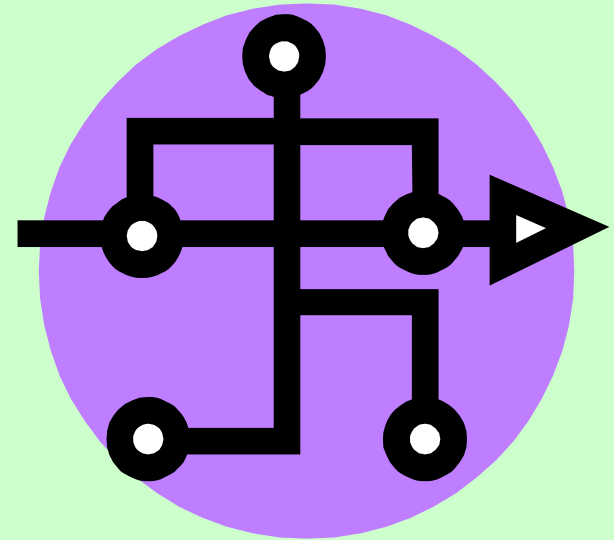


- His children will be blessed 20:7
- They will have firm footing 10:9

# God in Proverbs

How God feels about a man who  
refuses to walk in His integrity

- He will cause defeat  
for him 2:7
- His land will be  
taken from him  
2:21
- His sin will be found  
out 10:9
- He detests men  
who walk this way  
1:20

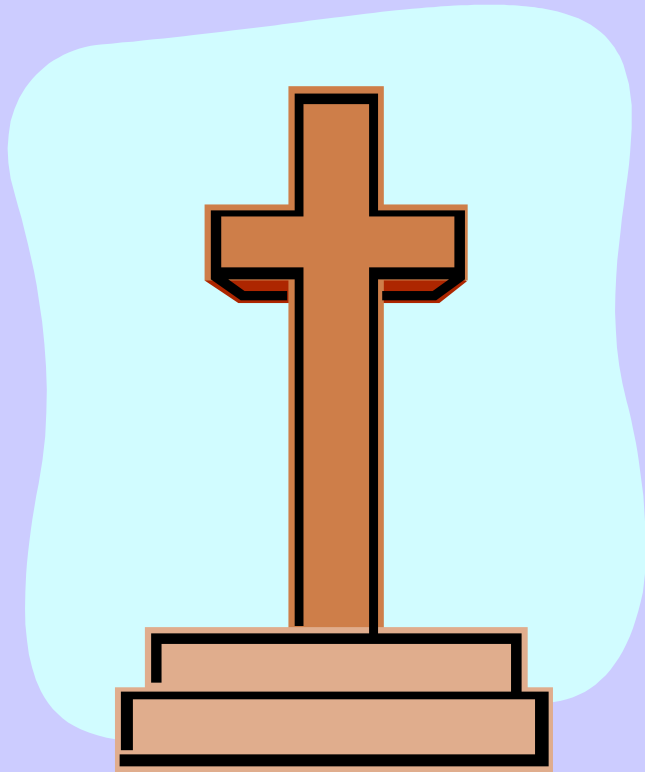


Why is integrity important  
to God?

# Here's why... (1)

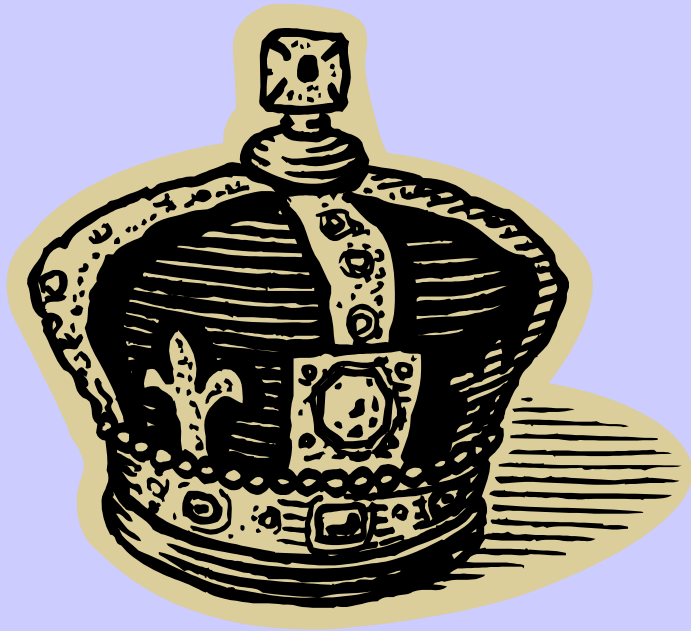
- Integrity is closely related to righteousness
- Righteousness is one of God's moral attributes Ps. 36:6
- God's righteousness is intimately related to other attributes, such as His holiness

# Here's why... (2)



- The Creator God is also the Redeemer, and His righteousness is interpreted through what He did on the cross to make atonement for us
- In the Old Testament, a component of righteousness is reflected in relationship between God and man  
Ps. 50:6

# Righteousness applies to these individuals



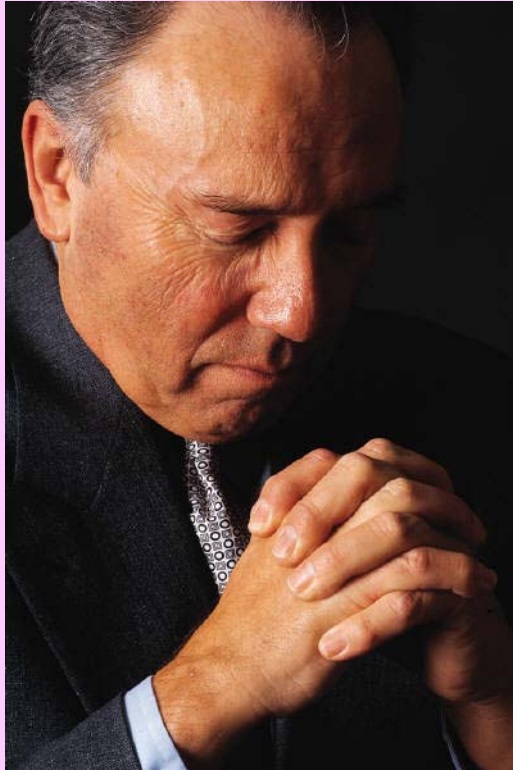
- Fact: used over 500 times in the Old Testament
- God Himself  
Ps. 119:137, 138, 144
- Rulers  
Ps. 45:4, 7; 72:1-7
- The people  
Ps. 32:11; 92:11

- 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
- 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



Integrity from God's examples  
can reflect the godly walk of a  
righteous man

# Words to describe the faith and life that is pleasing to God



- Righteousness
- Faith
- Steadfastness
- Holiness

# When we live a life of integrity, we also reflect honesty

- Honesty with our fellow man

Ps. 7:3, 4; 15:5; Prov. 11:1; 16:11; 20:10, 23

- Honesty in worship

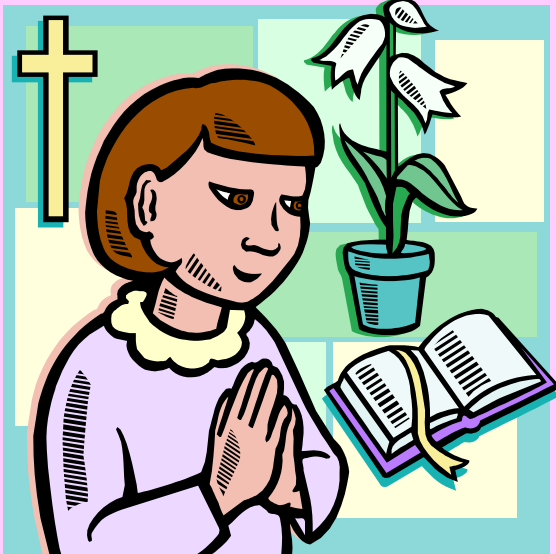
Ps. 24:4

- Honesty in our daily walk

Prov. 4:25; 12:22



How should the character of  
the saints be perceived?



- Bold Prov. 28:1
- Godly Ps. 4:3
- Humble Ps. 34:2
- Lowly Prov. 16:19
- Merciful Ps. 37:26
- Prudent Prov. 16:21
- Undeclared Ps. 119:1
- Upright Ps. 15:2

How lack of integrity by a  
Christian reflects poorly on  
God and our relationship with  
fellow mankind

# Righteousness is not only a relationship of God and man, but also man with man

- It promotes a failure to conform to a good relationship
- It detracts from the well-being and peace of community  
Prov. 11:34
- It destroys attitudes of steadfastness, faithfulness, kindness, goodness, and holiness  
Ps. 12:1, 2





- It exalts wicked actions such as are found in wicked people  
Prov. 11:1; 20:10, 23
- It implies consent to a wrong action  
Ps. 50:18
- It creates a false hope  
Ps. 62:10; Prov. 20:17
- It oppresses our fellow man with an unnecessary burden  
Prov. 3:27, 28

How the character of a wicked  
man is perceived

- Boastful Ps. 10:3; 49:6
- Conspires against the saints  
Ps. 38:12
- Deceitful Ps. 5:6
- It delights in others' iniquity  
Prov. 2:14
- An enticement to do evil  
Prov. 1:10-14
- Fearful Prov. 28:1
- Fierce Prov. 16:29
- Foolish Ps. 5:5



- Fraudulent  
Ps. 37:21
- Perverse  
Prov. 21:8
- Loathsome  
Prov. 13:5
- Lying Ps. 58:3; 62:4
- Mischievous  
Prov. 24:8
- Proud Ps. 59:12
- Unjust Prov. 11:7
- Ungodly Prov. 16:27



Based on what we have shared, how do you want to be seen in all of your dealings?

- 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
- One who prefers to rely on an unstable foundation of self-righteousness that will disappoint, knowing the fallen human nature
- Choose the way of righteousness that is found only in Jesus Christ

# A closing example



Integrity and the golf club object lesson

