



Isn't it interesting to see how the world ever questions sound authority, rejects biblical truths, and even outright lies in order to deceive? Yet, the truths of God have never changed, no matter how decadent human nature becomes.

Integrity is defined as adhering to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty. In essence, integrity of character is who God is, and also what He requires from all of us, especially if we identify as believers in Christ. Consequently, it has its source in God's moral truths, in the very Word of God, the Bible.

Here's what the Word of God says:

Pro 11:3: "The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them."

Pro 19:1: "Better *is* the poor who walks in his integrity than *one who is* perverse in his lips, and is a fool."

Pro 10:9: "He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known."

In truth, we're either on God's side or the world's, as Jesus indicated in Luke 16:10: "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much." Therefore, our life's principles are either grounded in God, or ever changing and seduced by the world's philosophies. Which side are we on?

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## **BEWARE OF THE CRAFTY DECEPTIONS OF THE WORLD**

*“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”*

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2Cor 11:3

Deception is what the world uses to draw people into error, using lies and doubt to cause some to accept as truth the lies of the enemy of our faith.

Gen 3:1 so describes the temptation of Eve, saying, “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘you shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

In essence, this is what false teachers and cunning deceivers do by twisting the Word of God.

Paul in Gal 1:6-8 described such deception saying, “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”

Clear enough? There is no other truth than God’s Word!

Then in 1Tim 6:9 he added, “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

Are we standing by God’s Word with integrity, or are we surrendering to and being fooled by cunning deceivers, dead set to destroy our faith?

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What does integrity in action look like?

Rom 12:9: "Let love *be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."

Pro 4:25-27: Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil."

Titus 2:6-7: "Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility."

Rom 12:1-2: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Job 27:3-4: "As long as I have life within me, the breath of God in my nostrils, my lips will not say anything wicked, and my tongue will not utter lies."

The outcome then is as "Ps 15:1-2 declares: "O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart."

Will we stand firm on God's Word?

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In Dan 3:16-18, we have the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who under the penalty of being thrown into the burning furnace, refused to worship the idols of the king, and said, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

And we know that their integrity of character resulted in God powerfully delivering them!

What does scripture say about fearing God?

Pro 8:13: “The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.”

Pro 12:22: “Lying lips *are* an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully *are* His delight.”

What can we expect if we fear God and live righteously?

Ps 1:1-2: “Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

Will we trust God, or are we being fooled and deceived by the world?

How strong do we perform on the integrity meter of God?

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