

Elder Bobby Willis



Integrity: A Lost Art?

It was common place when I was growing up to hear people speak of men and women of **“Integrity”**. However, we rarely hear it mentioned in today’s society. The word **“Integrity”** means: *‘possession of firm principles: the quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to high moral principles and/or standards.’* It is not found in the New Testament, but it is used 16 times in the Old Testament.

God speaks of Abimelech having **“integrity of thy heart”** in Genesis 20:6. Then He admonishes Solomon to walk before Him, **“as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee...”** in I Kings 9:4. The Lord told Satan that Job **“holdeth fast his integrity, although thou”** (Satan) **“movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause”** (Job 2:3).

“Integrity” was important to David as he mentions it on six occasions in his writing of the psalms (Psalm 7:8, 25:21, 26:1, 26:11, 41:12 and 78:72). Even Solomon spoke of it three times in Proverbs where it is used as the guide of the **“upright”**, being **“better”** for the poor than being a fool, and of blessed children because their father was a man of **“Integrity”**.

While the meaning in a dictionary of **“Integrity”** is good, the biblical meaning is more important to us. To have and to walk with **“Integrity”** from a Godly standpoint is worth examining. It literally means to have; Sincerity, Uprightness, The fear of God, Resolve, Truthfulness, Honesty, and any other Godly trait which the Word of God mentions.

True **“Integrity”** was demonstrated in Joshua 24:15 where it was said, **“...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”** Thus, one who has **“Integrity”** is a servant of the Lord; one who is willing to stand by faith (Romans 11:20). If you have **“Integrity”** you are to **“Watch ye”** and **“stand fast in the faith”** (I Corinthians 16:13).

While the word “**Integrity**” is not used in the New Testament, it is implied over and over of one who is seeking to please God, desiring to be a fruitful servant, and one who is faithful to the cause of Christ. “**Think About It!**”