

HONEST LIVING

Introduction

- 1) **Hebrews 13:18** – our desire and goal should be to live “honorably” [honestly]
- 2) **Kalos** (Gk) – good, admirable, becoming, has also the ethical meaning of what is fair, right, honorable, of such conduct as deserves esteem (“Honesty is the best policy”)
 - a) Concept of “integrity” [from *integer* = whole] – entire, wholeness
 - b) “Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people” (Johnson)
- 3) We are to seek what is honorable and good (Rom. 12:17; 1 Pet. 2:12; Phil. 4:8)
- 4) Honest living would have a tremendous impact in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, government, and courts (dishonesty wrecks relationships)
- 5) Must resist the many temptations to speak and act dishonestly – determine to live honestly

I) **Honesty and Worldly Goods**

- A) The desire to be rich brings many destructive snares and lusts (1 Tim. 6:9-10)
 - 1) Dishonesty is one of those snares – theft (shoplifting to grand larceny), embezzlement, fraud (investment, mail, tax), bribes, pay-offs, gambling
- B) Bible examples: Achan (Josh. 7:20-21), Judas Iscariot (Jn. 12:6), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-2), Jewish leaders (Matt. 28:11-15)
- C) Warnings (Prov. 11:1; Lk. 12:15; Eph. 4:28)
 - 1) Seek good judgment and reputation (2 Cor. 8:19-21; 2 Kgs. 22:4-7; Neh. 13:13)
 - 2) Pay debts, provide for family, proper accounting, obtain nothing illegally, trustworthy

II) **Honesty and Our Words**

- A) Emphasis on speaking truth, not falsehoods (Eph. 4:25; Prov. 4:23-24; Matt. 12:34)
 - 1) Dishonest words – lying, cheating, perjury, broken promises and vows, deceptive advertising, gossip, false teachers and preachers
- B) Bible examples: Jezebel (1 Kgs. 21:7-13), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-2), Jewish council (Matt. 26:59), Diotrephes (3 Jn. 10 – babbling, false accusations)
- C) Warnings (Prov. 6:17, 19; 19:1; Num. 30:2; Eccl. 5:4-5; Col. 3:9; Rom. 1:31)
 - 1) Have our speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6)
 - 2) Honest words needed at home, work, school, in government and church

III) **Honesty and Ourselves**

- A) Honesty demands that we be open-minded to truth (Acts 17:11) and to examining ourselves daily (2 Cor. 13:5) – can we look at ourselves “in the mirror”?
- B) Faithfulness to the truth (Psa. 15:2)
 - 1) Danger of *self-deception* – create own perverted version of reality (Gal. 6:7)
 - 2) Danger of *hypocrisy* – failure to live by standard we apply to others (Matt. 23:3)
- C) Root of dishonesty = *selfish disrespect for...*
 - 1) *Oneself* (no shame or self-respect, seared conscience, heart not receptive to truth)
 - 2) *Fellowman* (no concern about how dishonest words and actions affect others)
 - 3) *God* (not acknowledge Creator or authority of His word)

Conclusion

Honest living is not old-fashioned or out-dated; it is exactly what our homes, marriages, government, society, and church need today! Is honest living characteristic of your life? Do others trust you and your words? Can God trust you to serve Him faithfully (1 Tim. 6:20)?