

How to be an Honest Person

May 31 & June 1 2008

Deception is the way of the World.

- It's estimated that 10,000,000 people lie to the IRS each year resulting in \$20 billion in lost revenue.
- Surveys indicate that 79% of workers admit that they have or would consider stealing from their employers.
- 80% of us lie on our resumes.
- 70% of all doctors lie to insurance companies.
- Researchers estimate that we lie to each other in 30% of our interactions.
- 26% of those who find another persons wallet do not return it.

For you are the children of your father the Devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning and has always hated the truth. There is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. *John chapter 8, verse 44. (817)*

- ❖ Deception is in our DNA.-"*The human heart is most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?*
Jeremiah chapter 17, verse 9 (587)
- ❖ Lies are the most common of Satan's weapons.
- ❖ Satan lies to us to keep us from the life God has for us.
- ❖ Is this the way I operate?
- ❖ I am a child of God and He always tells the truth.
- ❖ God wants honesty everyday from me.

Everyday honesty is powerful.... God rewards it.

Do any of you want to live a life that is long and good? Then your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! *Psalms chapter 34, verses 12-13 (428)*

- God does not measure the depth of the lie... little white lies are sin too.
- Dishonesty is my attempt grab my own blessing or to keep from losing it.
- Our world does reward deception.
- Life is boiled down to the truth that God's opinion is the only one that matters.

Everyday honesty is powerful.... people respect it!

Choose a good reputation over great riches, for being held in high esteem is better than having silver or gold. *Proverbs chapter 22, verse 1 (496)*

- What do people say about you?
- Nobody has a perfect reputation.
- People should expect that I will keep my promises.
- God's reputation is at stake as our reputation is revealed.
- Am I leaving a legacy of truth for my children?

We are careful to be honorable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honorable. 2 Corinthians 8, verse 21 (897)

The dictionary defines integrity as "consistency and sincerity, with no deception at all." There is no discrepancy between what a person of integrity appears to be on the outside and what he is on the inside. For the Christ follower, integrity means we live according to what we say we believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and the Bible is our authority.

Everyday honesty is powerful.... Godly relationships rely on it!

- Honesty is saying what needs to be said- "Speak the truth in love"
- *An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.*- Proverbs chapter 24, verse 26 (NIV)
- Speaking the truth is an expression of love.
- Realize that speaking the truth can be costly.

An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy. Proverbs chapter 27, verses 5-6 (500)

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth for we are all parts of the same body. Ephesians chapter 4, verse 25 (896)

Get honest with God.

But you desire honesty from the heart, so you can teach me to be wise in my inmost being.

Psalm chapter 51, verse 6 (436)

- You have got to be honest with God before you can be honest with people.
- Confess those areas deception in your life and tell the truth.
- Seek accountability for those areas.
- When I am honest with God he can change me.
- Honesty is an act of humility!

For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians chapter 2, verse 13 (900)

Want More?

- ✓ Read Genesis chapter 3. What was the lie that Satan told to entice Adam and Eve to sin. Write down as many observations about how he did this.
- ✓ What lies have you specifically fell for from Satan.
- ✓ What consequences has this produced? What blessings from God have been missed?
- ✓ Read Daniel chapter 5 & 6. How was he a truth teller to the king? How was God with him when he chose to obey only Him?
- ✓ How did Nathan speak the truth to David after he sinned in 2 Samuel 12?
- ✓ Take a month and read the book of Proverbs to discover the link between wisdom and truth.

Next Week: Children of the World