



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 7, 2017

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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRITY

The term integrity has been defined in various ways. Some would say it is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principals. Others would say it is doing the right thing all the time simply because it is the right thing – doing the right thing knowing no one will know whether you did it or not.

I want to suggest, based upon Scripture, a life of integrity is what should characterize each Christian.

A life of integrity makes us like Jesus. “...Jesus Christ...went about doing good...” (Acts 10:38).

A life of integrity protects our reputation. “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us” (Titus 2:7-8).

A life of integrity gives us confidence to face eternity. “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain” (Philippians 2:14-16).

A life of integrity strengthens the message we share with others. “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation” (I Peter 2:11-12).

Doing the right thing – doing what Jesus Christ would do – will have a huge impact on our own lives and on the lives of others. Are we known as people of integrity?

Bart Warren

THE MISSING SPONGE

A surgeon was very selective with the people he wanted to work with. It was the first day on the job for a young nurse and the surgeon decided to issue a test. As the young nurse assisted the surgeon during a procedure, she noticed a problem.

“You’ve only removed eleven sponges, doctor,” she said to the surgeon. “We used twelve.”

“I removed them all.” The doctor declared. “We’ll close the incision now.”

“No,” the nurse objected. “We used twelve sponges.”

“I’ll take full responsibility,” the surgeon said grimly. “Suture!”

“You can’t do that!” blazed the nurse. “Think of the patient.”

The surgeon smiled, lifted his foot, and showed the nurse the twelfth sponge, and said, “You’ll do.”

It can be difficult to stand up for what is right, especially when we meet resistance. As for the young nurse, she was willing to risk disapproval and possibly even her job to stand up for what was right. Thankfully, she was working for a person who also valued integrity. It takes courage to expose ourselves and come under the heat of the spot light. In **John 12:42-43**, we see some people who weren’t willing to stand out, *“Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.”*

Which do we love more, God’s approval or man’s? It feels really good when people like us, praise us, and agree with us. Many people are even willing to sacrifice their morals and ethics in order to lay low and run with the crowd. It can be scary to be disliked, made fun of, and disagreed with. It can be hard to stand up for honesty and integrity as Christians, especially when those around us do not.

Moses told Joshua before his death, *“Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6).*

People may dislike or disagree with us, but there is only one approval that really matters anyway, God’s. When we stand with God, God will stand with us. Therefore, no matter what other people may think, let’s be courageous Christians and pursue God’s approval above all others.

Brett Petrillo

