

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"

MAY 18, 2014

## INTEGRITY; KEEPING MY WORD

Jim Stauffer

**Prov. 12:22** *Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah; But they that deal truly are his delight.* God, from the beginning has considered integrity crucial to man's harmonious relationship with Him. After all, being reconciled from sin to a sound relationship with God as Paul describes in **2 Corinthians chapter 5**, is in fact a restoration of our integrity with God. He has always insisted a man keep his own word which is voluntarily spoken. (**Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21**)

Jesus is described as a sinless man "*who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.*" (**1 Pet. 2:22**) Paul then says to us, "*be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ.*" (**1 Cor. 11:1**) Peter borrows the word holy from Leviticus in saying, "*but like as He who called you is holy, be ye yourselves holy in all manner of living, because it is written, ye shall be holy for I am holy.*" (**1 Pet. 1:15,16**) When Jesus first met Nathanael He said, "*behold an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile.*" (**John 1:47**)

One could continue to search the Scriptures and find many more passages containing examples and instruction concerning integrity and its importance in the eyes of God.

Now, we have seen why integrity is so important to God and therefore to man as he worships God, but why do you suppose integrity plays such an important role in the lives of men on earth?

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "*But let your speech be yea, yea; nay, nay: and whatsoever is more than these is of the evil one.*" (**Mat. 5:37**) He was teaching the principle we sometimes describe as, "let your word be your bond." We should be honest enough and our reputation should carry the message our word can be trusted. This, Jesus says is a trait of those who love the Lord and we cannot serve Him unless this is true of us. You can see when men are not trustworthy it is bound to have an adverse effect on human relations.

Yet, we live in a time (as others before us have) where men use deceit for material gain. A man may lie to sell a product or to achieve a promotion or to gain the favor of the people in order to reach for power. Such a man is the opposite of the Lord and what He demands of us all. He is filled with guile.

When you say the name, Richard Nixon, most people remember the phrase, "I am not a crook", even

as they remember he was. When Bill Clinton comes on your television screen, you are quickly reminded he said as he pointed his finger, "I did not have sex with that woman", even though we know he did. Every time Barack Obama gives a speech filled with promises, most people remember he said, "You can keep your current policy" or "You can keep your current Doctor", but we now know we cannot.

Are we to believe the leaders of our nation do not adversely affect it when they lie to all the people of that nation? Of course it has an adverse effect on everyone in one way or another. Is it not all that surprising then how poorly things work out when we reject the integrity God demands of us? Then when others who are in positions of leadership or influence hold these men up as examples of good leadership, deceit is advanced further.

Added to the general problem of lying and deceit is the difficulty one then has of sustaining his reputation. So he finds himself in a position where he must now lie to conceal former lies. "'O, what a tangled web we weave when we practice to deceive".

Whether we speak of ungodly men or those who have professed to serve the Lord, if we cannot stand up for truth and honesty under the pressure of criticism and persecution, we have no hope of following the Lord's admonition, "*Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee the crown of life.*" (**Rev. 2:10**)

For a long time I believed this quote was from Abraham Lincoln. Research indicates that is doubtful but it is still a stern warning to all men as they conduct their affairs on earth. The quote is: "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." In light of those sentiments, think how difficult God's word says it is to fool God any of the time. **Heb. 4:13** *And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do.* **Eccl. 12:14** *For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

Our reputation is what men think of us, but our character is who and what we really are.

Our salvation is determined by our character not our reputation.

# Children Pay A High Price

by Kent Heaton

We all have come into the world without choice. It was the actions of others that brought us into the world and our dependence upon them was immediate. In most cases, the care was fully given to provide a warm and protective environment. The necessities of life were provided to allow us to grow to adulthood and enjoy a measure of life.

There are those children that are brought into the world dependent upon their parents who fail to provide the necessities of life. Some children die from neglect, some grow up in miserable conditions and many live in a world of misery from the neglect of those who should have provided for them. Our society seeks to provide the needs of these children and will prosecute those who would abuse children.

Clearly, the physical and emotional abuse of children is a sad and terrible blight upon a society that has so much. We live in a rich world of prosperity that seems nearly endless. It is difficult to imagine so many children having to pay such a high price for survival for things they were not responsible for. Because of the neglect of their parents, they suffer.

A greater sadness is born upon the stories of parents who have neglected to teach their children about God. The physical neglect can be overcome in time and the child can bring themselves out of the poverty of their childhood. Even the emotional struggles can be tempered by the passing years. The soul that is lost will be lost forever.

We do not speak of the myriad of children who live in a world filled with ungodliness and without God. They too suffer from the neglect of their parents to even seek God. But what about the children of Christian men and women who have failed to nurture and admonish their children in the love of the Lord? These children pay a higher price because they have lost so much.

These are the children of parents who believe that coming to the assembly once in while will cause their children to love their Lord with all their hearts. Many children have parents that do not see the value of gathering with the saints to sing and worship together. They grow up in a world dominated by the pursuit of material gain and recreation. As they enter young adulthood, their thoughts are not turning to the Lord but to the gain of popularity and riches.

These children very seldom obey the gospel. Their hearts are filled with mirth and song and reaching for the gusto of life. Their friends reflect their value system and soon they are drawn to the world of sin and pleasure. It may be the parents wonder why their children do not "go to church" anymore. The children are only manifesting what they have seen in their parents. What a high price they are paying. There are children whose parents attend regularly but it is more of a pew filling experience than anything else. Out of duty they come and sit and

wait for the appointed hour of dismissal. Finally released they complain about the length of the sermon, the long prayers and why the announcements were so long with all those sick people and so forth. And the children feel the same way and will grow up with the same dismal outlook of "church services" as mom and dad - if they even attend church or not. What a high price they pay for the neglect of their parents.

Children pay a high price for the lack of spiritual devotion from their parents. It may be that in later life, the parents begin to feel a stronger desire to serve God but too late for the children. They come to the preacher and beg him to help their teenage son or daughter to see the truth but it is too late. The child has seen the lack of love on the part of the parents and they have become like their parents of old. Now the parents begin to pay a high price for their neglect.

Eli judged the people of Israel for forty years (**1 Samuel 4:18**) but his children paid a high price for his lack of discipline upon them. "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them." (**1 Samuel 3:13**) This neglect would carry over to the family of Eli during the reign of Solomon. (**1 Kings 2:26,27**)

"Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel ... So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel." (**2 Chronicles 33:1,2,9**) The Lord brought punishment upon Manasseh because of his wickedness and he repented - but it was too late for his son, Amon.

"Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done; for Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and served them. And he did not humble himself before the LORD, as his father Manasseh had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more. Then his servants conspired against him, and killed him in his own house." (**2 Chronicles 33:21-24**)

The story of Manasseh and Amon are repeated more often than not. A family will live for the devil while the children are growing up and later in life turn to the Lord. The children have already been impacted by the earlier life of the parents and leave the Lord, never to return.

Many parents shower their children with all the material wealth the world can offer and never afford them the opportunity to know the Lord.

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An unknown poet wrote:

Daddy Had a little boy,  
His soul was white as snow;  
He never went to Bible class,  
'Cause Daddy wouldn't go.

He never heard the Word of God  
That thrills the child like mind.  
While other children went to class,  
This child was left behind.

As he grew from babe to youth,  
Dad saw to his dismay,  
A soul that once was snowy white  
Became a dingy gray.

Dad even started back to church  
And Bible study, too;  
He begged the preacher,  
"Isn't there A thing that you can do?"

The preacher tried and tried, and said  
"We're just too far behind;  
I tried to tell you years ago,  
But you would pay no mind."

And so another soul was lost,  
That once was white as snow;  
Bible classes would have helped,  
But Daddy wouldn't go.

Paul commended Timothy because of the blessing received from a godly mother and grandmother. "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also." (**2 Timothy 1:5**) The price paid by Lois and Eunice was the "genuine faith" found in Timothy. No greater reward can a parent have than to find their children walking in the love of the Lord.

Someone said of **Proverbs 22:6**, "Train up a child in the way he should go and go that way yourself." The truth of the proverb is found in the diligence of the parents to train and admonish their children daily in the cause of Christ and the love of the Lord. No matter how hard we try, children will mimic our behavior and our value systems. If our faith and service to God are weak, our children will embrace the same type of faith.

## **MY PRODUCTIVITY** **Jim Stauffer**

Productivity is demanded of each employee by most companies. There is a reason they pay the salary of each employee. That individual is expected to produce either product or service that contributes to the overall profitability of the company.

When Jesus related the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, He was teaching personal responsibility for each person as he stands before his lord.

His terminology for those who properly shouldered their responsibilities was faithful. This indicated they were true to the charge they were given. Both the five and the two talent men received this testimonial from the lord when he returned and were afforded his highest

reward. The one talent man was not described as faithful but rather as slothful and received the maximum punishment.

I would guess very few people would be happy if their boss termed them as slothful. The term itself indicates an inert kind of person who does nothing positive for the cause.

If and when applied to spiritual matters, how many would be called faithful and how many slothful.

Jesus in many parables used the analogy of work to illustrate faithfulness. Working in the vineyard, etc. He said we must work the works of the Father Who sent Him. **John 9:4** *We must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.* It is important to note there is a limit to the opportunity to do this work; produce what He commands of us. One of the results of our work is its effect on others. **Matt. 5:16** *Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

Now we understand it is not by our talent and ingenuity that results happen. It is through the power of God's word that positive results occur. **1 Cor. 3:6** *I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.* The wise man pointed out the inability of mankind to accomplish anything on his own. **Ecc. 1:14** *I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.* This brings another aspect to our efforts at productivity. We cannot through human wisdom invent methods foreign to God's word and expect to bring the results He demands. This leaves us in the condemnable position Jesus describes, **Matt. 7:21** *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

What works for our productivity is to take seriously the advice of the Psalmist. **Psa. 31:19** *Oh how great is thy goodness, Which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, Which thou hast wrought for them that take refuge in thee, Before the sons of men!*

If we would become productive in the work of the Lord, we need to first fear and respect Him. **Ecc. 12:13** *This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.*

We must also take refuge in Him. We must trust Him with all of our hearts. We must truly believe in the power behind the promises He has made. Our lives are given an order and design by consulting the word of the One who first created us and then redeemed us through the blood of His Son. Because of that, we sing, *Oh how great the salvation in Jesus, that the prophets of old testified! Even angels desire its revealing. Praise and glory to Christ crucified. You were threatened for me, you were slandered for me. Every thorn, every nail, every tear was for me. Sweet the thought that my soul may be mended and whole by my Lord who was broken for me.*

**Eph. 2:19** So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

**1Pet. 2:9** But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

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### NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

J.R. DANIEL REMAINS AT HOME. LILLIE KEECH IS RECUPERATING FROM ADDITIONAL SURGERY. GREAT TO SEE IRENE HURD ABLE TO ATTEND WORSHIP AGAIN. PAT CLOTHIER REMAINS AT KU MED CENTER

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY IS IN MALACHI.

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: COMMON SENSE: A PART OF INTERPRETATION



## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins

Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10