

## Leading with Integrity Psalm 101

Written by King David

How do I live my life and conduct myself in areas of leadership and influence? What is the criteria for God honoring leadership?

The truth of this Psalm becomes much more clear with the contrast of David's life.

### **vs. 1**, Steadfast love and Justice

You can not live justly unless you are abiding in God's steadfast love. (The King must be directed by the wisdom of the Lord).

For us...How are we abiding in Jesus?

Only as branches, who get their nourishment from the vine, will we understand the depth of God's word and the values of his kingdom.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, **2** for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

### **vs. 2**, Wholeness / Integrity

Psalm 78:72 He shepherded them with a pure heart and guided them with his skillful hands. (Speaking of King David)

Mixology -> diluting truth

Walking with integrity of heart within my house.

David walked away from wholeness and integrity in the sin and evil against Bathsheba.

The worst kind of betrayal and the most obvious lack of integrity.

His kingdom would never be the same.

God had forgiven and restored David.

There is even a great mystery to the fact that Bathsheba had forgiven David.

Yet, there were still serious and significant consequences to David's sin.

I will ponder the way that is blameless (no corruption, no compromise).

This is a lifelong practice.

At times it is a difficult and lonely struggle with faith.

**vs. 3-4**, I will not set my eyes on what is worthless.

Worthless - anything that is not truthful. The process of allowing others to pull one toward deception, to a view not centered on God (his steadfast love and justice).

A perverse heart - twisted thinking, unable to see the plain truth. The narrow path is no longer an option.

Will we be men and women who pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us avoid the knowledge of evil?

**vs. 5-8**, Original setting - As king, here are the standards of my appointments.

There is no place for slander / gossip.

- Trying to "one up" those around you. Trying to look better, smarter, etc. than others.
- Speaking badly and falsely of others.
- Having a propensity to be deceitful and arrogant.

**vs. 5,** I will not endure

- Holding others accountable for what they say.
- Truthing in love -> pulling the weeds of wrong motives and values
- Courageously addressing pride and arrogance.

**vs. 6,** Instead, be faithful.

Be a leader who walks the blameless path.

This is a path of joy.

It refreshes all those around (ministers to me).

**vs. 7,** Don't ignore. Don't allow this type of behavior (living) to take up residents.

Proverbs 13:20 The one who walks with the wise will become wise,  
but a companion of fools will suffer harm.

**vs. 8,** Morning by morning

Exodus 18:13 The next day Moses sat down to judge the people, and they stood around Moses from morning until evening.

Diligence / faithfulness / Deeply committed

Contrast

2 Samuel 15:13 Then an informer came to David and reported, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

The son of King David acted in the very opposite way of the behavior described in this Psalm. He turned the people against his father.

2 Samuel 15:2-5

Absalom continued to tell the people what they wanted to hear.

- He expressed personal interest in their lives and problems.
- He supported their claims and convinced the people that he cared.
- Each claim presented before him he offered care and validation.
- Obviously not every issue that came before Absalom had merit, but his end game was manipulation not actually solving people's problems.

There is such clarity in these words, because of the blanket of failure that history throws over it.

Conduct depends on Character and Character is shaped by what or in whom we are Committed.

The truth of this Psalm is not dependent on David's actions.

The royal ideas are fully lived out by Jesus.

God's promise to David is that his throne would last forever.

Praying for those who lead and influence

1. Pray for authenticity and humility as they faithfully live according to kingdom values (Matthew 5-7). vs. 1
2. Pray that they will demonstrate integrity in their personal lives (wholeness). vs. 2
3. Pray for discernment, wisdom that comes from above to compassionately engage with people and issues. vs. 3
4. Pray for a deep commitment to God's word (distinguishing between right and wrong). vs. 4
5. Pray for the wisdom to seek help and rely on others. vs. 5-6
6. Pray for courage to take a stand against evil, even if the personal cost is great. vs. 7
7. Pray that they will be diligent and just in their sphere of influence, according to God's standards. vs. 8