



REAL MOMENTUM Bible Study

An Honest Man

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The definition of honest- truthful, trustworthy, not deceptive, demonstrates integrity.

Two situations in my life- 1) Found a wallet lying in the street in San Jose two weeks ago. It had lots of cash, a \$1,200 check, etc. 2) Stealing money from my uncle as a youth and sending him a letter to ask for forgiveness later in life.

Letter from Pastor about his marriage situation from "Seeking Him"- pages 42-43.

How do you determine the standard of truth in your life? God's standard- The Bible, Cultural norms/laws for that city or country i.e. Las Vegas or Amsterdam, or as long as it doesn't hurt others I will do what pleases me (relative truth).

God is the standard of truth!

John 14:6- "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Psalms 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

Honest with God- He already knows your situation. You must tell him (confess) that you did something wrong and want his forgiveness. I John 1:9. Pride will rise up to not confess it and stay distant in your relationship with God. Read Psalm 32:1-5. King David felt the burden of sin pressing down on him until he confessed his sin to God. Covering up sin is painful. Ask God to show you any "blind spots" you have (caution-may be painful).

Honest with Yourself- Psalm 51:6 "Behold you desire truth in the inward parts." James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourself."

Avoid self-deception! I am not as bad as others I know. Man's pride gets in the way of honest self- assessment. Your wife and family can give a pretty accurate picture if you are willing to listen. For example name your weakness. "I am sometimes too trusting of people and people take advantage of my trusting nature."

Honest with Others- Whole truth, half-truths are lies! Abraham and Sarah said they were related, not husband & wife. Acts 5:3-7 Ananias told a half truth about giving all the money Always do it God's way and leave the results to God (obedience based outcome). Examine your motive for doing something. Do I seek to create a better impression of myself than is normally true. If you promise something and can't deliver on it, you should take the responsibility to communicate regularly to other person and ask God for wisdom on how to make it right.

Group Table questions:

- 1) How is your marriage and relationships in general? If your wife or friend was here and was going to speak about the real you to all of us, is there something that comes to mind she better not share with us.
- 2) Is there any area of your life that has been or could keep you at a distance from a closer relationship with God?
- 3) Which area is hardest being honest with God? With Yourself? Or with Others? And why do you think it is.
- 4) Is there anything you can do to reconcile a relationship by admitting and asking forgiveness with God and others?