

***Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Restoring Our Faith – Integrity in Ministry
2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11***

ONE THING

INTEGRITY in MINISTRY leads to SINCERITY in COMMUNITY and UNITY in the BODY

1. Our INTEGRITY of CONSCIENCE

2 Corinthians 1:12–14 (ESV) — For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

Conscience... What is it?

Συνείδησις (suneidasis)

The psychological faculty which can distinguish between right and wrong—‘moral sensitivity, conscience.’

From the Dictionary...

An inner feeling or voice viewed as acting as a guide to the rightness or wrongness of one's behavior.

Every human has the realities of God's existence and law written upon their hearts

Ecclesiastes 3:11b (NLT) — ... He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

In speaking of the Gentiles who didn't have the Law of God like the Jews, Paul says...

Romans 2:15 (ESV) — They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

When we break any of God's Laws there rises a conviction of wrong doing...

However our sinful nature, desiring to be in charge, wants to develop our own sense of right and wrong based upon our person perspective of good and evil...

Genesis 3:5 (ESV) — For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Left in these lies our conscience becomes hardened and even seared ...

1 Timothy 4:1–2 (ESV) — Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting

themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared

At salvation our conscience is washed clean and the Holy Spirit enters to guide us into being led by our spirit according to God's Word...

However, we still have our sinful nature waging war against the Spirit...

Galatians 5:17 (ESV) — For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

So we must always check our conscience and make diligent effort to keep it clear...

Acts 24:16 (ESV) — So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

1. Our INTEGRITY of CONSCIENCE

2. Our IMITATION of CHARACTER

2 Corinthians 1:15–22 (ESV) — Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. For the Son of God,

Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Matthew 5:37 (ESV) — Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

1 John 2:6 (ESV) — Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1. Our INTEGRITY of CONSCIENCE

2. Our IMITATION of CHARACTER

3. Our INTERACTION of COMPASSION

2 Corinthians 1:23–2:4 (ESV) — 23 But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. 24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. 1 For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. 2 For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? 3 And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. 4 For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart

and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

Hebrews 13:17 (ESV) — Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Peter 5:2–3 (ESV) — Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

1 Thessalonians 2:7–8 (ESV) — But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:19–20 (ESV) — For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.

1. Our INTEGRITY of CONSCIENCE

2. Our IMITATION of CHARACTER

3. Our INTERACTION of COMPASSION

4. Our INSTRUCTION of COMFORT

2 Corinthians 2:5–11 (ESV) — Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

**Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Reconciling Our Faith – Integrity in Ministry
2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11**

_____ in _____ leads to _____ in
_____ and _____ in the _____

1. Our _____ of _____

2. Our _____ of _____

3. Our _____ of _____

4. Our _____ of _____