

Back to Basics: Pressing on to Holiness, 8
Integrity: Why the Nations Need Our Solid Holiness

February 24, 2019

Introduction

1. Thesis: Pursuing personal holiness will make a man or woman into a person of integrity who will “GO” and bear credible witness for the gospel in his or her sphere of influence *and* be significantly involved in a healthy church that sacrificially sends missionaries to the gospel-deprived places on the planet.
2. Integrity: A word evolved from the Latin adjective, integer, meaning *whole* or *complete*.
3. Integrity: “1) a firm adherence to a code of especially moral values; 2) an unimpaired condition; 3) a quality or state of being complete or undivided.” –Webster
4. Summary: Integrity is the character trait of being solid all the way through, so that what people see on the outside accurately reflects who you are on the inside; your private life is consistent with your public life and not divided. While people can (and should) see our public holy actions that imitate the actions of Christ, only God can see private holy actions and Christlike thoughts and motives (1 Sam. 16:7).

Solid Holiness vs. Hollow Holiness

Matt. 23:27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness.”

Why the Nations Need Our Solid Holiness

1. Integrity gives us the boldness and confidence to speak to unbelievers about Christ.

Prov. 10:9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

Prov. 28:1 The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

2. Integrity is the key to raising the next generation of church leaders and missionaries.

Prov. 20:7 The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!

Psa. 101:2 I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house;

1Tim. 3:4,5, 12 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?...Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.

3. Broken integrity encourages others to take sin less seriously and lead less holy lives.

1Cor. 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1Tim. 5:20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

4. Broken integrity is frequently uncovered and publicized in scandals that damage the credibility of the hypocrite, the hypocrite’s church, the hypocrite’s pastor, and the missionaries sent by the hypocrite’s church.

Prov. 10:9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

Titus 2:7,8 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.

Secret Unholiness: Publicly Holy, But Privately Unholy

1. Any unholy act committed when you believe you are alone or anonymous.

“The true test of a man’s character is what he does when no one is watching.” –John Wooden

“Character is who you are when no one’s looking.” –Bill Hybels

“True integrity implies that you do what is right when no one is looking and everyone is compromising.”

–Chuck Swindoll, October 22, 1987

2. Impure Motives: Doing the right things for the wrong reasons, usually to draw the praise of people, thereby robbing God of his glory (aka, virtue signaling).
3. Anger: A desire to destroy (seek vengeance) someone who has offended us or blocked us from what we want.
4. Pride: A sense of superiority that comes from taking credit for what God has done that is usually manifested in boasting and expecting special treatment.
5. Lust: An intense desire for anything outside the will of God, especially entertaining thoughts of unholy sex.
6. Envy: The inability to rejoice in the success of others, often revealed by disguised but damaging gossip, insult, slander, or diminishing of their accomplishments.
7. Greed: Excessively and selfishly desiring more than we need, often leading to deception in order to gain or keep more.

The “Krupto Principle:” Pursue *secret* holiness for *solid* holiness

Jn. 12:36 When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid (*krupto*) himself from them.

Matt. 6:4 so that your giving may be in secret (*kruptos*). And your Father who sees in secret (*kruptos*) will reward you.

Matt. 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret (*krupto*). And your Father who sees in secret (*kruptos*) will reward you.

Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Luke 5:16 But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

Matt. 6:18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret (*krupto*). And your Father who sees in secret (*kruptos*) will reward you.

1Cor. 4:5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden (*kruptos*) in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

Luke 8:17 For nothing is hidden (*kruptos*) that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

Rom. 2:16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets (*kruptos*) of men by Christ Jesus