

Honesty Is The Best Policy

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Straight Paths Bible Church

2 Corinthians 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Romans 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

honesty

HON'ESTY, n. on'esty. *L. honestas.*

1. In principle, an upright disposition; moral rectitude of heart; a disposition to conform to justice and correct moral principles, in all social transactions. In fact, upright conduct; an actual conformity to justice and moral rectitude.

2. Fairness; candor; truth; as the honesty of a narrative.

3. Frank sincerity.

Honesty is chiefly applicable to social transactions, or mutual dealings in the exchange of property.

- I. I do not imagine that there is anyone who does not know what honesty means.
 - A. All people know that it means truthful, fair, and just in all things.
 1. In all our dealings with others.
 2. In all our opinions of others.
 3. In all our conversation and the words of our mouth.
 - B. It means to be really truthful and fair, not just pretending to be.
 1. An honest person is always honest – not just when it is to his advantage to be.
 - C. It means to be totally objective in all our dealings with others concerning self.
 1. Our feelings, our desires, and even our wellbeing is set aside in order to obey the truth and do what is right.

Psalm 15:1-2 A Psalm of David. LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

D. It is a trait of good character, and a product of a good heart.

E. It is necessary for salvation.

Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

F. It is necessary for the Christian.

G. It is necessary to have the trust and confidence of others.

1. If you do not have the confidence and trust of others life is bound to be very difficult for you.

H. It is key to our reputation.

1. Unless we are known to be truly honest we will not have a good name and not only us, but our family, our children, and whoever we are associated with, will suffer because of it.
- I. It is key to our testimony as a Christian.
 1. If we are not completely honest and provide no occasion for suspicion on the part of others toward us, our testimony for the Lord will seem to them as one that mocketh.
- II. To be honest is to never lie.
 - A. It is not all right to lie to the devil.
 - B. It is not all right to tell a “little white lie.”
 - C. It is not all right to misrepresent the facts for any reason.
 1. To avoid trouble for ourselves or others.
 2. To avoid hurting someone’s feelings.
 - D. A person who is truly honest will simply be careful with his words that they are kept completely true and he will guard against any mistakes or misunderstandings.
 - E. In order to be completely honest in our words we must be diligent in our listening so that we do not absorb false information.
 - F. We must be in complete control of our imagination so that it does not manufacture false realities in our mind.
- III. True honesty respects what belongs to other people and.
 - A. A truly honest person will not take what belongs to someone else without their knowledge and consent, no matter how insignificant it might seem.
 - B. A truly honest person will guard what belongs to others as he would what belongs to himself.
- IV. To be truly honest is one of the most important character traits a person can have.
 - A. It affects our everyday living and business more than anything else.
 - B. It makes us accepted about every social situation or group, while we will be rejected, ignored, and set aside if we are suspected of being dishonest.
 - C. It brings us opportunities that are lost to us if we are known or suspected of being dishonest.
 - D. It opens up our understanding of the word of God and of all things, while a dishonest heart is closed to anything but selfishness.