

Psalm 26 — “Walk In Integrity”

Integrity! Integrity! Integrity! It is the mark of a Christian set apart unto God and set apart from the world.

Word Study: Integrity

- ✓ It speaks of: completeness; blameless; integrity; wholeness. Often translated: complete; healthy; blameless; innocent; sincere; quiet; peaceful; perfect; upright; honest; loyal.
- ✓ The point is not PERFECTION but WHOLENESS. It is not SINLESSNESS but COMPLETENESS.
- ✓ It is a wholistic, single-minded, consistent lifestyle of a pursuer of God; one that God accepts.
- ✓ a person walking in CONSISTENT BEHAVIOR (See Psalm 26:1, 11; Psalm 101:2; Proverbs 2:7; Proverbs 10:9; Proverbs 20:7)
- ✓ Deuteronomy 18:13 - be **‘wholehearted’** in your walk with God (lit: be blameless/complete/of integrity)
- ✓ Single-mindedness concentrates your will on wholeheartedness, conviction and genuine character. Many live in despair because they are double-minded; hypocritical; two-faced; or hiding a life of sin.
- ✓ Christ lived with integrity (Mark 14:56, 59); Christ presents his people blameless before God (Col 1.22); all elders must be blameless (1 Tim 3.1); all Christians must strive to live with integrity (Proverbs 10:9; 2 Peter 3:14).

THESIS — Psalm 26 teaches how to LIVE A LIFE OF INTEGRITY. What must you do?

I. AFFIRM! (1-8)****A MAN OF INTEGRITY has 4 affirmations>>**

- (1) separate from the wicked (4-5)
- (2) personal innocence (6)
- (3) spoken testimony to God’s works (7)
- (4) love for God’s House (8)

II. AFFIX! (3)

The key to the glad life of integrity:

1. The Covenant Love — *for your lovingkindness* —
2. The Center Focus — *before my eyes* —
3. The Careful Conduct — *walk in your Truth* —

III. ASK! (9-10)

IV. ADVANCE! (11-12)

But as for me (v.11a) —

To protect your integrity...

- be diligent in daily worship of God
- be consistent in your public/private conduct
- be mindful of God's eye always on you
- be resolute in weekly worship with the saints
- be aware of what influences you (TV, media, friends)
- be faithfully involved in one place for the long haul

"The importance of living a life of personal integrity cannot be overstated. A believer's life should always be lived as in the presence of God, as under divine scrutiny. Only by living as before the LORD can a person live without hypocrisy and duplicity. There must be consistency between your convictions and your character and your conduct." (Steve Lawson)

Sam Storms gives wise counsel describing a person of integrity.

- 1. A person of integrity fulfills his or her promises. Being true to one's word, especially when doing so is costly (in terms of money, convenience, physical welfare, and so on), is a core characteristic of integrity.
- 2. A person of integrity speaks the truth, is honest, and does not lie.
- 3. A person of integrity is a person of sincerity. That is to say, a person of integrity hates hypocrisy.
- 4. A person of integrity manifests a wholeness of character, including kindness, compassion, mercy, and gentleness.
- 5. A person of integrity is committed to the pursuit and maintenance of justice and fairness.
- 6. A person of integrity loves as, when, and what God loves.
- 7. A person of integrity is humble. He or she shuns pride and haughtiness.
- 8. A person of integrity is law-abiding. He or she plays by the rules, both in the Bible and the law of the land.
- 9. A person of integrity is fundamentally altruistic. That is to say, he is committed not simply to laws and rules but to people. Could a selfish person have much integrity? What about someone who is honest, law-abiding, and fulfills his or her promises but is self-absorbed and egocentric? Does the latter eliminate the possibility of integrity?
- 10. A person of integrity manifests a high degree of consistency.

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Jerry Wragg affirms: “Integrity is the consistent harmony of convictions and conduct... The opposite, of course is hypocrisy... Integrity is having an untarnished moral character both publicly and when no one else is around.

Jerry Wragg continues: A heart of integrity is cultivated by striving to maintain a clear conscience. Our consciences are the internal mechanism given to us by God to drive us toward sincerity. Like an internal accountability partner, the conscience acts as a witness in our hearts and minds to either “accuse or even excuse” our actions (Rom. 2:15). When we inform the conscience with biblical truth we are telling it to accurately hold us in check against the standard of Scripture. The conscience itself is not our benchmark, but if kept clear and clean it becomes a powerful instrument of integrity as it drives us toward the grand, inflexible benchmark – God’s Word.

TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Turn your eyes to the hillside
Where justice and mercy embraced
There the Son of God gave His life for us
And our measureless debt was erased

Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You

Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the Lion awake
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone
For we carry His life in our veins

Turn your eyes to the heavens
Our King will return for His own
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,
‘All glory to Jesus alone!’

PSALM 26: THE PSALTER

Tune: “In Christ Alone”

Judge me, O Lord, and prove my ways,
And try my reins, and try my heart
My faith upon thy promise stays,
Nor from thy law my feet depart.
I hate to walk, I hate to sit,
With men of vanity and lies
The scoffer and the hypocrite
Are the abhorrence of mine eyes.

Amongst thy saints will I appear
With frauds well washed in innocence;
But when I stand before thy bar,
The blood of Christ is my defense.
I love thy habitation, Lord,
The temple where thine honors dwell;
There shall I hear thine holy word,
And there thy works of wonder tell.

— Isaac Watts