

## **Honesty; the Invisible Necessity**

Honesty means without deceit or fraud; honorable in principles, intentions, and actions as a person not inclined to lie, cheat, or steal; showing up rightness, straight forwardness or fairness; truthful or sincere; genuine; unadulterated. When a person is honest people can trust him with great treasures. God can grant him things that would otherwise destroy him, or he would use them wrongfully.

Hebrews 2:1-4 – The objective of any instruction is change our behavior. We will attend services and refuse to change. Consequently, when we ignore instruction, or let it slip, or pretend we have not had any, our behavior remains unchanged. Heb 12:25

When a person is honest they admit they have been taught and do not pretend that this is the first time they are hearing such truth. Jesus said, “the truth will make you free.” Along with this concept is that a person must want to be free. The truth does not grab a person, kidnap them out of a condition and release them just like that; they must want to be free. We should not play dumb to keep from admitting that we are a dishonest person.

1 John 3:1-10 - One of the common errors of men is to judge others by what they do and themselves by their intentions. Intentions are not actions. We are judged by what we do, not by what we intend to do. Psalm 106:3; Ezek. 18:24

Acts 2:40 “Save yourself from this untoward (perverted) generation.” The first symptom of error is taking scriptures and making them conform to your lifestyle instead of taking your lifestyle and making it conform to the Word of God.

People who compromise—who settle for a truce with their sins—live in misery. Only when men fight through to victory do they live in peace. Jesus did not declare a truce with Satan. The devil tried to reach a compromise with Him on the Mount of Temptation, but Jesus knew the only way He could give peace was by fighting for total victory. That’s why the Word says it is a peace that surpasses the understanding of the world. God doesn’t want you to make a truce with your sin but to fight until you have victory over it

Character is not the same as personality. Personality is seen in public; character is built by what you do in private. There are “has beens” in every area of life—music, movies, sports, church. They built their personalities but neglected their character. When the personality wears off, only the character remains.

### *The cornerstone of character is faithfulness*

When a faithful man is unfaithful, he is faithful to repent!" We are all flawed. When we discover perfection, we have a tendency to crucify it. Just ask Jesus about that.

2 Timothy 2:2- God commits to character, not talent. "Commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" is the principle of discipleship.

The common error of transposition perverts that to: "Commit to able men who shall be faithful." That perversion is the basis for problems in business, church and marriage.

2 Deuteronomy 7:9; Hebrew 3:2; Luke 16:10

When a woman marries a man of ability, talent or dynamic personality, then discovers he is unfaithful; it will make her life a hell instead of a heaven. An employer hiring a man based solely on his resume can have his business ruined by the employee's unfaithfulness. It's common for employers, pastors, anyone to be impressed with men of charisma, talent, ability, and to commit some aspect of management or church life to the man. Then they suffer chaos and loss from his unfaithfulness.

Not only does Scripture affirm that God is faithful, but it declares that Christ "was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house."

"He who is faithful in a very little thing, is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest and unjust in a very little thing is dishonest and unjust also in much."

The Do-Nothing Saint...Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:12-27

In this parable, Jesus taught the "Law of Capital" or the "Law of Increase and Decline." By use you possess and increase and by disuse you decline and lose.

The principle works with faith, love, knowledge, money, talent, whatever a person possesses. Learn the piano as a child, fail to continue to practice, and as an adult, the talent is gone. Hide money away, and years later it will have lost much of its purchasing power. A good steward holds on to what he is given and uses or increases it. *The key to increase is investment.*

Look at what happened to the faithful stewards in the parable. Those who invested their talent were entrusted with more. *The reward for being trustworthy is greater trust.*

The steward who buried his sum lost what he had and saw it given to another. He was not wasteful, an embezzler or a thief. His sin was not in what he did, but in what he did not do. He was penalized because he did nothing. It's the penalty of the negligent. When brought to account, rather than admit his failure, the steward justified himself at his master's expense by charging the master with being cruel, unjust, hard, enriching

himself by others' toil, expecting gain where he had not labored, expected to get something for nothing. Self-justification has been the error of humanity since Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the devil.

The "do-nothing" steward's attitude was that returning the same sum should be sufficient cause for reward and recompense. The master's reply was that at least out of fear, rather than respect of the master, the steward should have made an investment and not just buried the sum. Calling the steward wicked and slothful, the master removed him from service. *Laziness and insolence are often the characteristics of unfaithfulness. Laziness in doing nothing, and insolence in passing the blame to others.*

"Do-nothing" saints refuse to do anything if they can't do it all, refuse to help if they are not allowed to lead, and will always refuse if they know others involved could do better. *You build character as you would an altar or building. Block upon block, decision upon decision, line upon line, little upon little.*

Luke 16:12- "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?"

James 1:22 – The beginning of true self –evaluation and personal recognition of truth's realities is to begin to perform truth.

An example of Luke 16:12 applied: One man's testimony, "I am having trouble with my two daughters," he said. "Nothing I can think of would cause their resentments. Today, I realized I also have two stepdaughters, and I have not been as faithful to them as I have to my own. I've been unfaithful to the daughters of another man. Now I know the source of my problem. When I get home, I am going to become a faithful steward of my stepdaughters, and when I do, I know God will restore my relationship to my own."

2 Kings 3:11 - Elisha qualified himself to receive Elijah's mantle by adhering to the principle of being faithful in that which is another man's. His faithfulness in serving qualified him for the oracle gift in Elijah's prophetic office.

Numbers 27:18 - Joshua was faithful to Moses and became qualified to lead Israel after Moses' death. It was critical that Joshua constantly and faithfully serve Moses to prove himself able to follow God's commands in leading the nation of Israel. His submission qualified him for the commission.

Hebrews 3:1-2 - Scripture refers to Jesus Christ as the faithful one. Jesus was constant, loyal and submitted to the work and will of His heavenly Father. At least three elemental ingredients are exhibited in His faithfulness: constancy, loyalty and submission.

Constancy means steadfast, never varying, continually recurring. Christ was constant in His application to the Father's will.

Loyalty is the state of being firmly attached to someone or something by affection, sympathy, self-interest or commonality. Loyal men are not secret-tellers. Their confidentiality is uncompromising. They are quick to stand for the cause or the person to which they are loyal.

Proverbs 11:13- "A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter." People who "leak," or murmur, are not loyal to their superior's or colleague's agenda but to their own.

Loyal church members do not gossip, find fault or murmur against their pastor. Neither do they listen to rumors from known sources of such things. Loyal pastors who hear things in private do not repeat them publicly. *Confidentiality is a virtue of the loyal, just as loyalty is a virtue of the faithful.*

Submission is willingly yielding, giving or offering yourself to an authority. Conversely, sedition is revolting against authority to which one owes allegiance. To remain faithful today, a man must beware of the subtlety of sedition.

### *Sedition*

*Sedition is an act of treason.* It is the undermining of constituted authority with an attempt to overthrow it. In the American justice system, sedition can be punishable by death. Loss of respect(fear of God) can lead to sedition. Good people, family and church members reject the thought of treason yet engage in it unknowingly. Sedition is natural to the human heart, a product of the soul of man in its rebellious nature. Sedition must be dealt with ruthlessly to get it out of the life.

*A seditious act can be as simple as one parent not enforcing the same discipline on the children as the other parent.*

The following is an example...When Tom gave his son permission to have the car for an evening, he told him to have the car back home by 10:30. When the son came home at 2:30 a.m., Tom was furious, took the keys and said, "You're grounded for thirty days. Don't ask for the car!" The following week, the son wanted the car, appealed to his mother, and she said "yes." Knowing what her husband had said, but acting in sympathy with the son, she was seditiously eroding her husband's authority and

teaching the son to disrespect his father. She thought she was being kind, not realizing that she was committing domestic treason.

James 4:7; Ephesians 5:21- "Church splits" are more often than not caused by the underlying work of seditious-spirited people trying to overthrow the pastor. An attitude of submission to one another will stop the spread of sedition. No wonder the Bible says to "submit to God" and "[submit] to one another in the fear of God." Even the withholding of tithes, hoping to cause financial distress in the ministry, is an act of sedition.

### *Submission is the solution to sedition*

2 Samuel 15:1-6, 18:9-15 - Absalom rebelled against his father King David. He sat by the entrance to the city, counseling, consoling and conferring with the people, winning their confidence, while whispering to them that, if he were king, he would be different from his father. He stole the hearts of the people, caused them to participate in his seditious uprising, betrayed his father's trust, subverted the throne and wreaked havoc on the country. God would not tolerate Absalom's sedition, and he met a contemptible death.

Galatians 5:19-21 -The Bible calls sedition a "work of the flesh." Some understand the evils of drunkenness, reveling, fornication and heresy, but little is understood of sedition. Those are not the works of the devil as some suppose, but the works of human nature apart from the control of the Holy Spirit.

- Colossians 3:5 -You can't overcome adultery by "casting out the devil" when adultery is a work of the flesh. Adultery is overcome by "mortifying the members of the flesh."
- Ephesians 2:1-5 - Dying to lustful desires, rendering as dead the old self for which Christ died to resurrect as a "new creation."

The public display of ministerial misdeeds causes loss of respect in both the secular and the sacred populations, blasphemy in the secular arena and sedition in the sacred.

- 2 Samuel 12 - Nathan, the prophet, told King David that his adultery with Bathsheba caused blasphemy against the worthy Name of Jehovah.
- Romans 2:17-24, we learn that when ministers preach against adultery and then engage in it, or lecture not to covet and then show greed for money, or forbid others to steal and then are found in thievery, it causes blasphemy among unbelievers. Loss of respect is the number one cause of divorce in marriages.

**How the sin of sedition works...** An excerpt from a personal testimony; "About ten months ago, a brother from a church I used to attend called me and asked if I would work with him in a new church he was starting. "He had been an associate pastor when I knew him, and we were friends. So I told him I'd come and help. About four months

ago, I noticed a change in my daughters, and three months ago, I sensed a rebellious attitude. They had never been like that before. Then, a few weeks ago, my wife began to talk about divorce.

“I was trying to do everything I knew to be a good husband, father, church member, yet my whole life was coming apart. When I heard about sedition, it hit me. The pastor I came to help had started his congregation with a ‘split’ from the church where he had been an associate. I didn’t think much about it, but now I realize that he had a seditious spirit when he left. I put my family in his congregation, they embraced his spirit, and his attitude got into the heart of my family.”

One more citation from a personal testimony; “...for four long years, I have been searching for an answer. I closed the doors of my church because my wife and family could not stand it any longer. After we left, we discovered I had taken over a group of people that had split from another church together with the assistant pastor.

“When I accepted that pastorate, troubles at home broke out. My daughters split up with their husbands; my oldest son had problems with his wife. My life hit an all-time low. I left the church and ministry, feeling like a failure and wondering what had happened. “I had taken a rebellious people and, rather than my helping them, they almost ruined me. I repented, forgave them and the assistant who got me into that mess, prayed with my wife . . . Now I can’t wait to minister to the rest of my family.

*People can engage in sedition when they are not in submission to rightful authority.*

Luke 15:11-32 - Sedition is one of many forms of rebellion. In His parable of the prodigal son, Jesus gave a pattern of societal downfall and restoration: rebellion, ruin, repentance, reconciliation, restoration. The prodigal’s rebellion was not outright anarchy but a desire for independence from the father’s authority.

Sin, in its basic form, is a denial of God’s right of possession. Men who desire independence from the Father and want to live their lives apart from His will are, in fact, rebels against God, who created them.

- Ezekiel 33:30-33 - People came to Ezekiel to hear what he had to say, but then paid no attention to it. Their rebellion expressed itself in indifference.
- Jeremiah 38:15 - Before Jeremiah prophesied, he elicited a promise from those listening that they would submit to whatever they heard as a word from the Lord. But when they heard the word that was counter to their desires, they rejected it. Their rebellion was in the rejection of God’s Word.

If you have been indifferent, unfaithful, a rebel, a victim of sedition, engaged in sedition, then in the Name of God, get it out of your life! In the parable of the prodigal, you can see that repentance is the pivotal point between ruin and reconciliation. Repent! Pray!

***When a faithful man has been unfaithful, he is faithful to repent.***