



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Leader Has Integrity!

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This study/devotional is prepared for government leaders in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Kansas government. We trust that these summary notes are inspiring and encouraging.

INTRODUCTION

What does the term “integrity” mean, and how does a person maintain integrity? Webster¹ gives a profound example of integrity and then defines how this relates to a person: *1. Wholeness; entireness; unbroken state. The constitution of the United States guaranties to each state the integrity of its territories. The contracting parties guarantied the integrity of the empire. 2. The entire, unimpaired state of any thing, particularly of the mind; moral soundness or purity; incorruptness; uprightness; honesty. Integrity comprehends the whole moral character, but has a special reference to uprightness in mutual dealings, transfers of property, and agencies for others.*

WALKING IN INTEGRITY

Proverbs 20:7 The righteous who walks in his integrity blessed are his children after him.²

The apostle Paul wrote to the people of Corinth in defense of his ministry (2 Corinthians 1:13). He stated that his words were always plain, honest, forthright, unflinching, and non-evasive. Popular author John MacArthur³ writes that “Paul was consistent in backing up his words with a life that was dependable and wholly in harmony with what he taught.” Paul was a transparent leader. He demonstrated his steadfastness by being decisive, definitive, and true to his word.

LOST INTEGRITY

1 Kings 9:4-5a “As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father....”⁴

History shows that Solomon lost his integrity during his latter years and was consumed with idolatrous living. His son, Rehoboam, inherited the throne and lost 90% of the kingdom during his first year.

MAINTAINED INTEGRITY

Job 2:3 Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”⁵

The Book of Job gives us a picture of what goes on in the unseen, spiritual world. God gave Satan permission to test Job. It pleases our Lord when we stand through adversity. How do you ensure that you walk in integrity?

CONCLUSION

Conscience means self-knowledge, specifically moral self-awareness. The capacity for moral reflection is the result of our being made in the image of God.⁶ Our conscience is fallible. It must be instructed, calibrated with God’s Word just as your watch is set to display the correct time (Psalm 119:11). Suppressing or ignoring our conscience is deadly to us spiritually, removing a vital defense against temptation. Disobeying these signals is itself a sin (James 4:17). The feeling of guilt can be eased by suppression or tolerating our feelings, but like cancer, the sin remains. Our mind must be cleansed and restored for healing to occur. A person who ignores his conscience is, by definition, not a person of integrity. Integrity is the most basic requirement of leadership.⁷

A Prayer:

Psalm 26:1-2 Judge me favorably, O LORD, because I have walked with integrity and I have trusted you without wavering. Examine me, O LORD, and test me. Look closely into my heart and mind.

¹ Noah Webster. American Dictionary of the English Language. (Webster) 1828.

² The Holy Bible. English Standard Version. (Good News Publishers).2001.

³ John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson). 2004.p80.

⁴ The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica).1984.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson). 2004.p79.

⁷ Ibid. p81.

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