

Trustworthiness: Christian Integrity

Psalm 15:1-5

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- “LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? 2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; 4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.”

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- The Little Boy Who Cried “Wolf!” by Aesop
- “We are inclined to believe those whom we do not know because they have never deceived us.”
(Samuel Johnson)
- Luke 16:10-12 - “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?”

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- Trustworthiness is not based on any single moment in our lives, but on the legacy of reliability we have accumulated over time.
- Many believe that being trusted is a right; trust is never a right; it is a condition that is earned.
- “Trust is built with consistency.” (Lincoln Chafee)
- “Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.” (Albert Einstein)

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- God set the standard of trustworthiness.
 - 1Kings 8:56 - “Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.”

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- Joseph modeled that standard for all of us.
 - Gen. 39:7-9 - “And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”

God Is Faithful

- He proved His faithfulness in keeping His promises.
 - Heb. 10:23 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”
- He has shown us His steadfastness.
 - Heb. 6:17-19 - “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.”

God Is Faithful

- We can confidently commit our lives to Him.
 - 1Peter 4:19 - “Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”
- His children must be just as trustworthy.
 - 3John 5 - “Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do...”
 - Rev. 2:10 - “...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

True Christian Character Is Worthy Of Trust

- *In Business*
- Stewards are required to be faithful.
 - 1Cor. 4:2 - “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

True Christian Character Is Worthy Of Trust

- Not just when someone is looking.
 - Eph. 6:5-8 - “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.”

True Christian Character Is Worthy Of Trust

- God cannot tolerate a dishonest business man.
 - Prov. 11:1 - “Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.”

True Christian Character Is Worthy Of Trust

- *In Marriage*
- A component of love is a love for truth.
 - 1Cor. 13:4-8 - “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails...”

True Christian Character Is Worthy Of Trust

- Marriage is a covenant to be kept.
 - Mal. 2:13-16 - “And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. 14 Yet you say, For what reason? Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. 15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. 16 For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence, Says the LORD of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.”

True Christian Character Is Worthy Of Trust

- *In Speech*
- Faithful in word, in conversation.
 - 1Tim. 4:12 - “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
- Letting our yes and no mean precisely that.
 - James 5:12 - “But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your Yes, be Yes, and your No, No, lest you fall into judgment.”

True Christian Character Is Worthy Of Trust

- *In Service to God*
- Faithful men
 - 2Tim. 2:2 - “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
- Another name for Christian is faithful.
 - Col. 1:2 - “To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

True Christian Character Is Worthy Of Trust

- The faithful servant
 - Matt. 24:45-47 - “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.”
- Jesus rules over the faithful.
 - Rev. 17:14 - “He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

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- It is critical that we develop trustworthiness; without it, we are nothing.
- As we trust in God...
 - Psalm 9:10 - “And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.”
 - Psalm 56:3 - “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.”
 - Psalm 13:5 - “But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.”

Psalm 15:1-5

- ...So must we become trustworthy to all others.
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