



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

October 20, 2013

City on a Hill

desert breeze community church

Matthew 5:33-37 "Integrity"

The more skillful we are at impression management (hiding), the more the healing power of community is diminished and the more we are trapped in our loneliness. People gripped by God's grace will be people of integrity (openness, honesty & authenticity).

What Is Integrity?

- It is living for an audience of one (God) 24/7.** vv33-36; Matt23:16-22
- It is being motivated by a life-changing joyful awe and wonder of the greatness and goodness of Christ ruining you for anything else.** vv33, 34, 36; Pro9:10 The fear of the Lord!
- It is making God the end not the means to the end.** V37; Matt5:8; Ps16:8

Why Is It Important? (v37; Eph4:15, 25)

A lack of integrity destroys human...

- Identity**
- Dignity**
- Community**
- And puts you on a collision course with **Reality**.
- 2Cor5:21
- You have all the acceptance & security in Christ you'll ever need to both hear the truth (w/o defensiveness) and speak the truth (w/ love).** Rom8:32-32; Heb13:5-6

How to Be a Person of Integrity?

- You must be willing to pay the price for truth.** V33 shall perform (keep/pay) to the Lord...
- The price will be the sacrifice of temporal acceptance (compliant) & security (control).** Matt16:24-26; 2Cor5:17
- Jesus was stripped naked so that we would be clothed with His righteousness.** John 18:19-23; 2Cor5:21
- You have all the acceptance & security in Christ you'll ever need to both hear the truth (w/o defensiveness) and speak the truth (w/ love).** Rom8:32-32; Heb13:5-6



Growing

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- 1) The more skillful we are at impression management (hiding), the more the healing power of community is diminished and the more we are trapped in our loneliness. Why do we hide? Why do people gripped by God's grace seek to live lives of integrity?

- 2) Read Matthew 5:33-37. The Pharisees had created a legal way of lying and became clever in their speech by establishing levels of truthfulness (Matt23:16-22). What does it mean that integrity is living for an audience of one (God) 24/7? What should motivate us (Pro9:10)? How is God being the end rather than a means to the end also about integrity (Matt5:8; Ps16:8)?

- 3) Why is integrity (openness, honesty, authenticity) important (v37; Eph4:15, 25)? What does a lack of integrity destroy? Explain each one and how they impact our lives. If you knew that everything you said & did tomorrow was going to be videotaped and then put on the internet for everyone to see...would it make any difference in what you say & do? Explain.

- 4) To be a person of integrity you must be willing to pay the price for truth. Why is it like Jack Nicholson said, most of us "can't handle the truth"? Jesus was stripped naked so that we would be clothed with His righteousness (Jn18:19-23; 2Cor5:21). How does that give us all the acceptance & security in Christ we'll ever need to both hear the truth (w/o defensiveness) & speak the truth (in love)? Pray db is a place of integrity.