

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

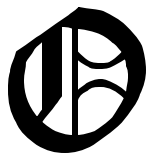
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## Honesty and Integrity

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Occasionally, we find *honesty* in the world around us, but it is not a virtue that is prominent or easily achieved. Perhaps that's why I like small children. They just say what's on their minds. And if there is an “oops” somewhere in there, well... they're just kids. On the other hand, as an adult, when we say what's on our minds we are accused of being, too blunt, too short, too judgmental, too uncaring, and the ever dreaded accusation of not being politically correct. We might have to watch our “oopses” but *honesty* is always the best policy.

Hand in hand with *honesty*, is *integrity*. In talking about public servants, my dad would say, politicians are people looking out for themselves, a statesman on the other hand, is looking out for the citizens. That's *integrity*. There is usually a quiet *integrity* surrounding most moral people, from gray haired grandmothers who have taught religiously in Bible classes for years, to newly baptized Christians that exude a fresh new born state in Christ.

*Honesty* is defined as,

*fairness and straightforwardness of conduct and an adherence to the facts.* It implies a refusal to lie, steal, or deceive in any way. *Integrity* is defined as, *a firm adherence to a code of especially moral values, an unimpaired condition, or the quality or state of being complete or undivided.* According to the on-line version of the dictionary I use, at the end of *honesty*, it asks you to see *integrity*, and at the end of *integrity*, it asks you to see *honesty*. The implication is that these personal qualities go together hand in hand.

These both are admirable traits. They are qualities parents have attempted to teach their children from the beginning of their child rearing; qualities adults want to be known to exhibit in their personalities; and qualities older adults still want their adult children to possess, hoping they all achieve this goal. With that in mind, we are reminded by Luke 8:15 that Jesus in explaining the parable of the sowing of the seeds, in part says *And that in the good ground, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bring forth fruit with patience.* In Psalms 26:1 the verse states, *Vin-*

*dicate me, Lord, because I have lived with integrity and have trusted in the Lord without wavering.*

...an *honest* and good heart ...I lived with *integrity* and have trusted in the Lord...

These two words are brought up time and again through out the Bible. The Lord asks us to hold these values close to our hearts and in our minds. Remember there was a disciple named Judas that exemplified the utter lack of *integrity*. Our now beloved Peter once manifested dishonesty by denying he knew Christ three times. *Honesty* and *integrity* are high ideals often absent at critical moments.

Speaking of Job, God says, *No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil. He still retains his integrity, even though you incited me against him, to destroy him without just cause.* (Job. 2:3)

We should all strive to be like Job, a man of *honesty* and perfect *integrity*.