

THE PRICE & REWARD OF INTEGRITY

Proverbs 10:9; 13:6 and more

"Sanctify them
by the Truth.
Your Word is Truth"
John 17:17

- I. Introduction
- II. Why do you think choosing genuine integrity protects us so much better than trying to fake our way through life?
 - A. When you choose to walk uprightly, you get to live with peace and a clear conscience instead of constantly worrying about getting caught. 10:9; 28:18; 13:6
 - Proverbs 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.
 - Proverbs 28:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ Whoever walks blamelessly will be saved, But *he who is perverse in his ways* will suddenly fall.
 - Proverbs 13:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Righteousness guards *him whose way is blameless*, But wickedness overthrows the sinner.
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 - B. The truth is God sees our innermost thoughts, so guarding our minds keeps us from becoming fake on the outside while scheming on the inside. 15:26; 21:8; 24:8-9
 - Proverbs 15:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ The thoughts of the wicked *are* an abomination to the LORD, But *the words* of the pure *are* pleasant.
 - Proverbs 21:8 (NKJV) ⁸ The way of a guilty man is perverse; But as for the pure, his work is right.
 - Proverbs 24:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ He who plots to do evil Will be called a schemer. ⁹ The devising of foolishness is sin, And the scoffer is an abomination to men.
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 - C. We shouldn't be surprised when people who reject God don't like us, but we can take comfort in the friends who share our values. 29:10
 - Proverbs 29:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The bloodthirsty hate the blameless, But the upright seek his well-being.
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- III. What kind of long-term harvest can we actually expect when we align our daily habits with God's character?
 - A. Living God's way brings a special kind of peace and blessing that money simply can't buy, but not so with the wicked and with fools. 3:33-35; 10:3; 10:22; 11:27; 21:21
 - Proverbs 3:33-35 (NKJV) ³³ The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just. ³⁴ Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble. ³⁵ The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.
 - Proverbs 10:3 (NKJV) ³ The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked.
 - Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV) ²² The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.
 - Proverbs 11:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks evil.
 - Proverbs 21:21 (NKJV) ²¹ He who follows righteousness and mercy Finds life, righteousness and honor.
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 - B. People might seem to get away with bad choices for a while, but eventually those wrong actions boomerang right back on them and others, while the good deeds of a good person come back to them. 10:24-25; 11:21; 14:14, 22; 17:13; 18:3; 19:29; 21:12, 16; 22:8; 26:1, 3, 27
 - Proverbs 10:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ The fear of the wicked will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted. ²⁵ When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous has an everlasting foundation.
 - Proverbs 11:21 (NKJV) ²¹ Though they join forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; But the posterity of the righteous will be delivered.
 - Proverbs 14:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, But a good man will be satisfied from above.

- Proverbs 14:22 (NKJV) ²² Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.
- Proverbs 17:13 (NKJV) ¹³ Whoever rewards evil for good, Evil will not depart from his house.
- Proverbs 18:3 (NKJV) ³ When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; And with dishonor comes reproach.
- Proverbs 19:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ Judgments are prepared for scoffers, And beatings for the backs of fools.
- Proverbs 21:12 (NKJV) ¹² The righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked, Overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness.
- Proverbs 21:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ A man who wanders from the way of understanding Will rest in the assembly of the dead.
- Proverbs 22:8 (NKJV) ⁸ He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, And the rod of his anger will fail.
- Proverbs 26:1 (NKJV) ¹ As snow in summer and rain in harvest, So honor is not fitting for a fool.
- Proverbs 26:3 (NKJV) ³ A whip for the horse, A bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the fool's back.
- Proverbs 26:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

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C. When we consistently do what is right, our lives naturally guide others toward God and make our communities better. 11:30, 31; 16:7

- Proverbs 11:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.
- Proverbs 11:31 (NKJV) ³¹ If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, How much more the ungodly and the sinner.
- Proverbs 16:7 (NKJV) ⁷ When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

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IV. Conclusion

Reflection and Discussion Questions

1. In what specific areas of your life is it most tempting to keep one foot in culture and one foot in faith?
2. How do the media and entertainment you consume shape your daily values and choices?
3. What are some subtle ways worldly thinking can creep into a believer's heart without them noticing?
4. What worldly distractions or ambitions most often compete with your devotion to Christ?
5. How can you prioritize biblical righteousness over culture's definition of success when making decisions?
6. What is one practical step you can take this week to anchor yourself more deeply in God's Word?