

LIVING WITH HONESTY INSIDE & OUTSIDE

Proverbs 15:11; 16:2 and many more

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

- I. Introduction
- II. God evaluates our hidden motives and sees our true internal character.
 - A. God looks directly into the deepest parts of the human heart.
 - Proverbs 15:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Hell and Destruction *are* before the LORD; So how much more the hearts of the sons of men.
 - Proverbs 20:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.
 - B. God accurately weighs what our self-justification attempts to hide.
 - Proverbs 16:12 (NKJV) ¹² *It is* an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, For a throne is established by righteousness.
 - Proverbs 21:2 (NKJV) ² Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.
 - Proverbs 17:3 (NKJV) ³ The refining pot *is* for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests the hearts.
 - C. A persons real internal integrity or lack thereof naturally reveals itself over time.
 - Proverbs 20:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Even a child is known by his deeds, Whether what he does *is* pure and right.
 - Proverbs 20:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?
 - Proverbs 27:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ As in water face *reflects* face, So a man's heart *reveals* the man.
- III. Outward Religious Rituals Are Worthless When Offered With an Insincere Heart
 - A. God rejects religious performance from unrepentant hearts.
 - Proverbs 15:8 (NKJV) ⁸ The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright *is* His delight.
 - Proverbs 15:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The LORD *is* far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.
 - B. God requires genuine moral obedience over exterior religious ritual.
 - Proverbs 21:3 (NKJV) ³ To do righteousness and justice *is* more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.
 - Proverbs 21:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination; How much more *when* he brings it with wicked intent!
- IV. True wisdom requires us to recognize and resist outward deception in our own lives and others.
 - A. Wise believers learn to recognize the subtle warning signs of deceptive people.
 - Proverbs 6:12-15 (NKJV) ¹² A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth;
¹³ He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers;
¹⁴ Perversity *is* in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord.
¹⁵ Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.

- Proverbs 16:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ He winks his eye to devise perverse things; He purses his lips *and* brings about evil.
 - Proverbs 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ He who winks with the eye causes trouble, But a prating fool will fall.
- B. Being morally honest keeps us safe, while taking dishonest shortcuts ruins us automatically.
- Proverbs 11:3 (NKJV) ³ The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.
 - Proverbs 20:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ "*It is good for nothing,*" cries the buyer; But when he has gone his way, then he boasts.
- C. Wise and discerning believers can see through the surface warmth to the selfish desires underneath.
- Proverbs 23:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ Do not eat the bread of a miser, Nor desire his delicacies;
⁷ For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.
⁸ The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, And waste your pleasant words.
 - Proverbs 26:23-26 (NKJV) ²³ Fervent lips with a wicked heart *Are like* earthenware covered with silver dross.
²⁴ He who hates, disguises *it* with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself;
²⁵ When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For *there are* seven abominations in his heart;
²⁶ *Though his* hatred is covered by deceit, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

V. Conclusion

Reflection and Discussion Questions

1. Prov. 15:29 / 1 Pet. 3:12 — What is the difference between God "hearing" every sound and "listening" to a prayer? How does knowing God draws near to the righteous change how you approach Him?
2. 1 Sam. 15:22 / Matt. 7:21 — Why is it so easy to let outward rituals (like singing or going to church) replace heart obedience, and how can we spot that trap in our own lives?
3. Prov. 26:23–26 — The study compares fake niceties to cheap glaze hiding worthless clay. How can we practice discernment with others without becoming bitter or overly suspicious?
4. Prov. 11:3 — Doing the right thing can sometimes cost us money, reputation, or relationships. Has maintaining your integrity ever cost you personally, and how did God sustain you through it?
5. Prov. 20:14 — Dishonesty often sneaks into everyday business or shopping habits. What are some subtle ways our culture normalizes small acts of deceit to get ahead or cut costs?
6. Self-Examination — If someone were to compare your public life with your private thoughts and habits, would they see a match? Where do you need God's help to align your inside with your outside?