

Chapter 1

AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD 1

INTEGRITY OF GOD'S WORD

Integrity: The state of being entire, whole, honest, not two-faced (pretending to be one thing but being another), not double-minded (thinking one thing, then another), not talking out of two sides of your mouth (saying one thing, meaning another).

**May integrity and honesty protect me, for I put my hope in you.
(Psalm 25:21 New Living Translation)
The godly walk with integrity...(Proverbs 20:7a New Living Translation)**

- I. The integrity of the Word of God, the Bible.
 - A. The Bible is composed of 66 books written by over 40 authors over a period of 1500 to 2000 years without contradiction.
 - B. The Bible's theme is consistent; a redemptive God reaching out to redeem His fallen creation. The Bible is one book with one message, the message of salvation (redemption). God spelled out this salvation (redemption) in His Written Word (the Bible), dramatized it in His Living Word (Jesus Christ), and demonstrates it today in His Continuing Word (the Holy Spirit in His Church). All other religions are about man's search for God. The Bible tells us of God's redemptive search for man and how man (we) must respond.
 - C. The fact that the Bible has integrity (wholeness) is not because it is unified and consistent. It is unified and consistent because it has integrity. It has integrity because God has integrity. (2 Samuel 22:31; Psalms 19:7-11; Proverbs 30:5)
- II. Why does God's Word, the Bible have integrity?
 - A. The Bible has integrity because it is a book with a purpose.
 - B. The Bible has integrity because it is inspired by the Spirit of God. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
 - C. The Bible has integrity because it always points to Jesus, the Living Word. (John 1:14)
 - D. The Bible has integrity because it is not going to disappear or change. (Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:17-18; 1 Peter 1:24-25)
- III. The integrity of God in relation to the integrity of God's Word, the Bible.
 - A. The overriding reason for the integrity of God's Word is the integrity of God. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Hebrews 13:8)

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B. When God gives His Word; we can be assured that He will keep His Word. A man is as good as his word and God is no better than His Word. God cannot and will not lie. God cannot and will not forget. God will not violate or break a covenant that He makes. (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2)

IV. The Bible, God’s Word demands a response of obedience from those that read it.

A. There are some books that we just read and enjoy, or some perhaps we think about, but the Bible, God’s Word is living and active.

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 NIV)

B. Mental assent is not an adequate response to the Bible. It is essential that we respond to Truth; the Truth we hear, the Truth we know. Truth is active; not passive. Every revealed Truth requires a response. There is a “response to Truth” gap which is the time between hearing and doing. When we do not respond to Truth quickly and from the heart, we become susceptible to doubt, confusion, error, false assumptions, and deception. The moment we hear the truth, the “response to Truth” clock starts ticking.

C. There are several possible ways we can respond to truth, but we cannot remain passive to the Truth when it is presented. We can believe the Truth or choose to disbelieve. We can simply obey the Truth or choose to disobey. We can accept the Truth or we can reject it. (Deuteronomy 30:11-20; Joshua 1:7-8; John 13:17; 1 Peter 4:17)

V. We cannot choose to selectively believe and obey God’s Word, the Bible. Because of God’s faithfulness and grace in our lives there should be progressive revelation to us by the Holy Spirit, progressive repentance on our part, followed by progressive obedience. Can you say, “I know God’s Word has integrity because I have put it to the test and proved God and His Word worthy of putting my faith, confidence and trust in?” (John 16:13; James 2:10-11; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

VI. For a personal exercise look up the following verses in Psalm 119. Discover what the Word will do for you according to each verse.

- 1. _____ 92,93. _____
- 9. _____ 98, 99. _____
- 11. _____ 103. _____
- 24. _____ 105. _____
- 28. _____ 127, 128. _____
- 42. _____ 130. _____
- 50. _____ 138. _____

86. _____ 140. _____

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

Chapter 1 Authority of God's Word 1 - Integrity of God's Word

1. Think about the different ways you can see the theme of redemption shown in the Bible. How has the theme of God's redemption of man developed? Use both Old Testament and New Testament examples.
2. The truths of God's word require more than mental assent. They require response. Why do you believe response to truth to be important in your growth and life as a Christian? How should we respond to the truths of God's word?