

The Excellence of Integrity

Read: Proverbs 28:1-18

Main idea: Embracing integrity not only reflects our commitment to God but also paves the way for a life filled with His blessings and peace.

Key Verses: "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy." (**Proverbs 28:13, ESV**)

Key Principles:

- Integrity empowers believers to stand courageously on God's truth and helps us to reflect Christ's boldness in facing opposition.
- Discernment in pursuing God's priorities guards against the pitfalls of wealth gained through deceit.
- Humility before God invites His mercy and sufficiency to transform hidden sins into opportunities for restoration and blessing.
- Righteousness rejects oppression and crooked ways, ensuring deliverance and an inheritance for those who walk in God's path.
- Living with integrity aligns our lives with God's blessings, turning potential downfall into enduring peace, as we trust in His guidance over self-deception.

Discussion:

1. How does verse 1 illustrate the courage that comes from standing on God's truth, and what fears might cause the wicked to "flee" today? Share how embracing integrity has given you boldness in a challenging situation.
2. Discuss how upholding God's justice in daily decisions can promote stability.
3. How have you seen discernment protect relationships, such as in family or finances? How does a discerning son honor his father through obedience.
4. What does trusting God's guidance look like in avoiding the trap of misleading others for selfish gain?
5. How does resting in God's sufficiency combat self-conceit, and why might the poor "search out" the rich? Discuss a time when humility revealed hidden pride.
6. What makes rejecting evil paths essential for integrity, and how do tyrannical rulers mirror the "roaring lion" today?
7. How does walking in righteousness reflect Christ's path, and what practical steps can we take to avoid "crooked ways" that lead to downfall?

Prayer:

- Praise God for the courage and stability that come from embracing integrity.
- Pray for:
 - Boldness of Christ to stand on His truth in the middle of life's fears.
 - Discernment to pursue God's priorities over deceitful gains.
 - Forgiveness for any hidden sins and thank God for His mercy.

The Excellence of Integrity
Proverbs 28:1-18

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| I. | <u>Embrace integrity with courage.</u> | 28:1-5 |
| 1. | <u>Stand</u> on God's <u>truth</u> . | 28:1-2 |
| 2. | <u>Uphold</u> God's <u>justice</u> . | 28:3-5 |
| II. | <u>Cultivate integrity with discernment.</u> | 28:6-10 |
| 1. | <u>Pursue</u> God's <u>priorities</u> . | 28:6-7 |
| 2. | <u>Trust</u> God's <u>guidance</u> . | 28:8-10 |
| III. | <u>Practice integrity with humility.</u> | 28:11-14 |
| 1. | <u>Rest</u> in God's <u>sufficiency</u> . | 28:11-12 |
| 2. | <u>Seek</u> God's <u>mercy</u> . | 28:13-14 |
| IV. | <u>Reflect integrity with righteousness.</u> | 28:15-18 |
| 1. | <u>Reject</u> the path of <u>evil</u> . | 28:15-16 |
| 2. | <u>Walk</u> the path of <u>righteousness</u> . | 28:17-18 |

NEXT WEEK:
An Impartial God
Deuteronomy 10:12-22