

A FAITH KNOWN FOR INTEGRITY

James: A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Part 28

Rick Warren

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"A person is worth what his reputation is worth." - Proverbs 27:21 (NJB)

"A good reputation is more valuable than the most expensive perfume."
- Ecclesiastes 7:1a (NLT)

"Choose a good reputation over great riches. Being held in high esteem is far better than having silver or gold."
- Proverbs 22:1 (NLT)

Paul: ". . . We're being as careful in our reputation with the public as in our reputation with God."
- 2 Corinthians 8:21 (The Message)

"An elder must be a man whose life cannot be spoken against. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exhibit self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. . . . Also, he must have a good reputation with people outside the church who speak well of him so that he can't be disgraced and trapped by Satan."
- 1 Timothy 3:2, 7 (NLT)

"In the same way, deacons must be people who are respected and have integrity. . . . First, they must be evaluated. Then, if they have a good reputation, they may become deacons."
- 1 Timothy 3:8, 10 (NLT)

HOW TO BECOME KNOWN FOR INTEGRITY

1. SPEAK THE TRUTH _____

"Above all, my brothers and sisters, don't swear by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Just let your 'Yes' be yes and let your 'No' be no – just say what you mean. Do this so you can't be judged and condemned."
- James 5:12

"Am I like the people of the world who say yes when they really mean no? As surely as God is true, I am not that sort of person! My yes means yes because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, never wavers between yes and no!"
- 2 Corinthians 1:17–19 (NLT)

Jesus: "I tell you to never swear by heaven, which is God's throne, or by the earth, which is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, his great city, or even by the hair on your head, because you can't turn one hair white or black. Just say a simple 'Yes' if you mean yes or 'No' when you mean no. Your word should be enough. Anything more than that is from the Evil One."
- Matthew 5:34–37

2. SHARE THE TRUTH _____

"Someone who holds back the truth causes trouble . . ."
- Proverbs 10:10 (TEV)

"Why are you lying? Do you think your lies will benefit God?" - Job 13:7(TEV)

"In the end people appreciate frankness more than flattery."
- Proverbs 28:23 (LB)

3. USE THE TRUTH _____

"Speak the truth in a spirit of love . . ."
- Ephesians 4:15 (TEV)

"Speak ONLY what is helpful for building others up, according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
- Ephesians 4:29

"Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal."
- Proverbs 12:18 (TEV)

"Intelligent people think before they speak . . ."
- Proverbs 16:23 (TEV)

"There is a right time and a right way to do everything . . ."
- Ecclesiastes 8:6 (TEV)

4. LIVE THE TRUTH _____

"LET OUR LIVES lovingly express the truth in all things – speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly."
- Ephesians 4:15 (Amp)

"People who can't be trusted are destroyed by their own dishonesty."
- Proverbs 11:3 (TEV)

"David shepherded the people with integrity of heart; and with skillful hands he led them."
- Psalm 78:72 (NIV)

DAVID'S COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL INTEGRITY

"This is my song (of commitment) to your love and justice O Lord . . . I will lead a life of integrity in my own home. I will refuse to look at anything degrading or demeaning. I will refuse to support anything shameful or corrupt. I will not be dishonest and I will have nothing to do with anything evil. I will silence anyone who spreads gossip and slander about others and I will not tolerate anyone who looks down on others. Instead, I'll keep my eyes on the godly of the land and they will be my heroes. Only those with integrity shall minister to me. No one who cheats or lies will ever have a position in my royal court."
- Psalm 101:1–7

1. plainly 2. completely 3. tactfully 4. consistently

以正直著稱的信仰

雅各書：在人生困境中活出真信心—第二十八部
華理克牧師
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“人的價值，在於他的聲譽如何。” - 箴言 27:21 下 (NJB 意譯)

“美好的名聲比貴重的香料更有價值。” - 傳道書 7:1 上 (新普及譯本)

“寧要好名聲也不要大財富，備受尊崇勝過擁有金銀。” - 箴言 22:1 (新普及譯本)

保羅：“…我們留心自己在公眾的聲譽，就如我們留心自己在上帝面前的聲譽。” - 哥林多後書 8:21 (信息本意譯)

“作長老的在生活上必須無可指責，必須忠於他的妻子，而且能夠節制，為人處事有智慧，有好名聲…此外，作長老的還必須在教會外有好名聲，以免他蒙受恥辱，落入魔鬼的陷阱裏。” - 提摩太前書 3:2, 7 (新普及譯本)

“作執事的也是一樣，要得到人的敬重，要正直…先要仔細地考查他們；如果他們通過了，就可以作執事。” - 提摩太前書 3:8, 10 (新普及譯本)

如何成為以正直著稱的人

1. 說出真相

“我的弟兄姊妹們，最主要的是，不可發誓。不可指天指地，或指任何東西發誓；是，就說是；不是，就說不是，只要說真心話。這樣，你們就不至於受審判和定罪。” - 雅各書 5:12 (意譯)

“我豈像世人那樣口是心非？上帝的確是信實的，我也不是那種人！我說是就是。因為耶穌基督，上帝的兒子，從不會在是非之間搖擺不定！” - 哥林多後書 1:17 下-19 上 (NLT 意譯)

耶穌：“我告訴你們，絕不可指着天起誓，因為天是上帝的寶座；不可指着地起誓，因為地是上帝的腳凳；不可指着耶路撒冷起誓，因為那是祂的大城；也不可指着自已的頭髮起誓，因為你無法使一根頭髮變白或變黑。是，就只管說是，不是，就說不是，這樣說就夠了。再多說就是出於那惡者。” - 馬太福音 5:34-37 (意譯)

2. 分享真相

“隱藏真相的人惹動糾紛。” - 箴言 10:10 (現中修訂版)

“你們為甚麼撒謊？你認為自己的謊話對上帝有益處嗎？” - 約伯記 13:7 (TEV 意譯)

“人最終欣賞的是誠實的批評，而不是奉承的話。” - 箴言 28:23 (新普及譯本)

3. 使用真相

“懷着愛心說真話…” - 以弗所書 4:15 (新普及譯本)

“只要隨着需要說造就人的好話，讓聽見的人得益處。” - 以弗所書 4:29 (新普及譯本)

“出言不慎如利劍傷人；言語明智如濟世良藥。” - 箴言 12:18 (現中修訂版)

“明智人三思而後言…” - 箴言 16:23 (現中修訂版)

“萬事都有特定的時機和途徑…” - 傳道書 8:6 (新普及譯本)

4. 活出真理

“讓我們的生命在凡事上慈愛地彰顯真理，坦誠相告，坦誠相待，坦誠而活。” - 以弗所書 4:15 (Amp 意譯)

“奸詐者被奸詐毀滅。” - 箴言 11:3 (當代中文譯本)

“大衛按心中的純正牧養他們，用手中的巧妙引導他們。” - 詩篇 78:72 (NIV 意譯)

大衛立志行事正直的承諾

“主啊，這是我對你慈愛和公正（的承諾）之歌…我要在家中過正直的生活，我要拒絕看任何侮辱或貶低別人的東西，我要拒絕支持任何可恥或腐敗的事，我不會欺詐，也不與邪惡的事有任何瓜葛。我要堵住散播是非與謾罵他人的嘴，也不會容忍任何輕視別人的人。相反，我要看顧地上敬虔的人，以他們為英雄，只有正直的人才能服侍我。詭詐與說謊的人必不得留在我的皇宮裏。” - 詩篇 101:1-7 (意譯)