

Honesty

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I. Introduction.

- A. God is more interested in who we are than what we know.
- B. The message is carried on the main stream of the life.
- C. If you are interested in growing spiritually, know that it is not measured by what you know. (Isaiah 47:10; Ecclesiastes 7:16; 10:10)
- D. The divine nature is a gift. We grow over time. (2 Peter 1:4; Luke 2:52; Hebrews 5:8)

II. Implications of honesty. (Ephesians 4:25; Psalm 51:6; Proverbs 6:16)

III. Forms of dishonesty: slander, deceit, silence. (Psalm 127)

IV. We are responsible for holiness. (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14)

- A. We know when we do wrong because of our conscience. (Romans 2:14-15)
- B. The judgment of our conscience is...
 - 1. Final and unbiased.
 - 2. Irrefutable.
 - 3. Categorical.
 - 4. Individual. (Romans 14:5)

V. Reasons why we are dishonest.

- A. Peer pressure. (Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 1:16; Isaiah 65:5)
- B. Fear of being judged. (Romans 14:10)
- C. Greed. (1 John 2:15-16)
- D. Desire for recognition or fame. (Psalm 75:6-7)

VI. Possible solutions.

- A. Make up your mind about some nonnegotiable principles.
- B. Let your mind be renewed. (Philippians 4:5; Ephesians 4:23; Romans 12:2)
- C. Resist beginning. (Romans 13:14; Isaiah 28)
- D. Be a changed influence.

E. Be a good influence. (Jeremiah 15:19)

F. Stick up, speak out and ask questions.

G. Let people know where you stand.

Application questions:

1. What are some ways you are tempted to be dishonest?

2. How would you exhort someone who struggles with dishonesty?

3. What are some ways we can guard against being dishonest? Explain.
