



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## Weekly Bible Study - 16:06:2010

Website: [www.victoriouschristianministry.org](http://www.victoriouschristianministry.org)

### **STUDY 42: INTEGRITY IN CHRISTIAN CONDUCT AND CONVERSATION**

**“But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation” (James 5:12).**

James' admonition mirrors that of Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:33-37 and provides a solemn reminder of divine standard for heaven – “Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil”.

The absence of honesty and integrity is one of the key parameters that will condemn souls in hell “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, **and all liars**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

### **Corruption Through Craftiness**

Craftiness, often clothed as “wisdom of the world” produces the lack of integrity among Christians. **“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.** For it is written, **He taketh the wise in their own craftiness”** (I Corinthians 3:19). Believers are commanded to renounce craftiness **“But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;** but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God” (2 Corinthians 4:2). They are also warned not to be wise in their own conceits (Romans 12:16). “Lo, this only have I found, that **God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions”** (Ecclesiastes 7:29). Many become stained while trying to seek self justification and preserve their face. God warned **“But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid”** (Galatians 2:17).

Romans 2:17-29 reveals that craftiness produces corruption and hypocrisy “Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit

**Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern**

sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written. For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God”

Spiritual maturity comes to those who attain freedom from craftiness “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by **the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness**, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ephesians 4:14).

### **Conquest Through Consistency**

God’s righteous demand remains “...**Provide things honest** in the sight of all men (Romans 12:17)”. Consistency comes through true fear of God “The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, **He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God**” (2 Samuel 23:3). Right focus and personal discipline promotes consistency “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.** Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (I Corinthians 9:24-27). We are all admonished to stay close to anything that makes us want to do right “...**follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart**” (2 Timothy 2:22). This entails among other things:

1. Living by your convictions every day. Remember that when everything is going our way, it is not difficult to live by our convictions; but when the odds are against us, and our convictions demand that we do something that will hurt or cost us, is when we must not falter. In times like that, never forget that character is built like a wall – one brick at a time.
2. Thinking regularly about your values and letting them soak in. Talking regularly about them cement those values and add a level of safety and accountability to our lives.
3. Constantly measuring your choices against God’s Word.
4. Never allowing our feelings and / or impulse of the moment to override our convictions. Always act scripturally and consistently, and your feelings will follow.