

VIRTUE

How Integrous Will I Become?

November 3, 2024

Proverbs 3:5-8—*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.*

Psalm 86:11—*Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.*

Genesis 6:1-13—*When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.” The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*

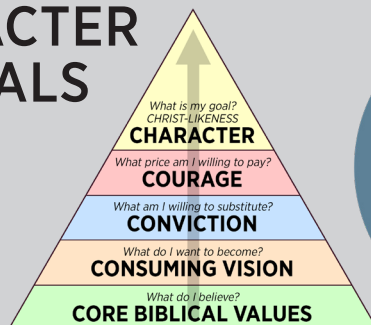
The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.”

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.”

Genesis 7:5—*And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.*

CHARACTER VISUALS



HOW TO LIVE A VIRTUOUS LIFE

1. REALIZE: The road to Christlikeness requires rigorous character building.

See Galatians 5:22-23; Genesis 7:5

2. REALIZE: Character building must focus on specific traits.

Galatians 5:22-23—*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...*

Matthew 5:3-10—*Blessed are the poor in spirit... Blessed are those who mourn... Blessed are the meek... Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... Blessed are the merciful... Blessed are the pure in heart... Blessed are the peacemakers... Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness...*

Micah 6:8—*...To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

2 Peter 1:5-8—*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 13:1-13—*...Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres...*

Proverbs 6:16-19—*There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.*

Genesis 7:5—*And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.*

3. REALIZE: You alone decide how integrous you will become.

Luke 9:23—...*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*

1 Corinthians 11:1—*Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*

Philippians 2:5-8—*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant... he humbled himself...*

Galatians 2:20—*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Daniel 1:8—*But Daniel resolved not to defile himself...*

Daniel 3:18—*But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.*

Daniel 6:10—*Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.*

Genesis 7:5—*And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.*

1 John 2:3ff—*We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands...*

1 John 2:6—*Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

John 15:10—*If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.*

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All verses quoted in New International Version unless otherwise noted.

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