

RESTORING YOUR INTEGRITY

Revelations 3:1-6

INTRODUCTION: The definition of the word *integrity* is an unimpaired condition: Soundness: the quality or state of being complete or undivided. Sadly, today the church has become like the frog in the kettle where the water is heated slowly. We are to be salt and light in our generation and instead of living lives of integrity, too many in the church are being conformed to this world without even realizing it: Romans 12:1-2.

I. SPEAK THE TRUTH!

We have sports stars that cheat to attain their record-breaking feats; we have politicians who promise anything we want to hear in order to be elected and sadly, we have churches teaching what the crowds want to hear instead of teaching the living Word of God! 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Revelation 3:1; Revelation 3:2; Proverbs 28:6; Revelation 3:2; 2 Corinthians 10:12. Remember: Truth always comes before grace!

First: We must speak the truth: Ephesians 4:14. Second: We must stand for the truth: 2 Corinthians 13:8. God tells us that His Word is the truth! John 17:17. The truth is good news: I am a sinner but I have a Savior who died for my sins and gives me His grace that I do not deserve!

II. SURRENDER TO GOD'S TRUTH!

We not only need to speak the truth and stand for the truth, we must surrender to the truth! Remember, there is no grace without the truth. John 8:31-32. It is when we freely admit how broken and desperate we are and say to our Lord: "Jesus, I admit it. I come to you admitting that I need your grace every step of the way that we receive the grace of God into our lives: Matthew 7:24-29. Telling the truth is the place we must start if we want an authentic, living, firsthand faith. Are you totally excited about the forgiveness you have found in Jesus Christ?

III. CONFESS GOD'S TRUTH TO OTHERS!

Telling the truth, even when it is not pretty sets us free. It is like oxygen for the long-distance runner: it fills us with the strength we need and blesses others who so desperately need to see God's truth in action! You see we can afford to tell God's truth to others because the truth is we are all broken and our God loves us anyhow! Our security is found in Christ and His unconditional mercy, not in ourselves! True integrity allows us to admit to God and to others that we still fall short of God's standard but in spite of that He still chooses to give us His grace and His righteousness! John 15:1-5; Philippians 4:13. Our Lord encourages us to be honest with Him, to be honest with ourselves and to be honest with others about our real condition: 1 John 1:7-10. If you long to be forgiven for your sin, stop trying to cover it up. Be honest with God and confess it! Don't keep making excuses for your sin, honestly let God know the truth! He already knows but He wants to hear it from you so He can give you His grace! Proverbs 28:13-14; James 5:16. This is saying what God says about our sin! This is integrity! Proverbs 11:3; Revelation 3:1-6. Do you have an ear to hear what the Spirit of God is saying to your church? Do you have an ear to hear what the Spirit of God is saying to you?