

The Faithful Sojourner
Genesis 21:22-34

Simply integrity ...

I. God's Pilgrims

A. Abraham and His Neighbors

B. The Virtuous Believer in the World

II. An Upright Christian Witness

A. Honest

B. At Peace

C. Uncompromising

... on the way to glory.

Children, Listen ...

1. Should we be honest in all we do?
2. If we say we are going to do something should we make sure we do it?
3. If we make a foolish promise should we still keep it? If not what should we do?
4. Will our friends always think it is great when we do what is right? Should that matter?
5. What should you do when you are tempted to lie or cheat? Where can you find help if that happens?

Basic Integrity

God calls us to live lives of uncompromising integrity. Trustworthiness is a part of the very fiber of the true believer and is an integral part of our witness for Christ. It is certainly not all there is to a genuine witness as the name of Christ and the Gospel must be declared, otherwise we might just be perceived as very good moral people. However if we are missing the element of solid moral character we are liable to ruin any kind of legitimate testimony for Christ we might hope to have to those around us. Our first concern is of course what we are to God. The believer's desire is to be a fragrant thank offering to Him. If our lives are tainted by conniving, corruption, equivocation and the like we can hardly think He will be pleased with that. Flowing from our commitment to integrity before the Lord is our witness to our neighbor – and our neighbor is everyone we come in contact with. From the privacy of our homes to the public square genuine integrity is to be our practice. If we lack credibility in our dealing with people our devotion to the Lord will be in question, and rightfully so. If we live before men as humble and holy there will be a discernible and probably intriguing difference that will get attention and perhaps even a curious inquiry as to why we are the way we are and make the choices we make. Even when we might be tempted to compromise and even when the world around us might pressure us to shave the edges of our convictions we must not give in. Jesus was sinless and displayed the perfection of ethics in all that he said and did. He calls us to do likewise, and while we will fall short due to our weakness, we can be a faithful people of integrity with the help of Jesus through the Spirit and a healthful resolve to do all things according to God's will. By His grace we will remain true in all aspects of life and in doing so we will be truer witnesses for the God of glory.