

Honesty

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I. Introduction.

- A. We are taught to pretend from our youth.
- B. It is worth living without a mask.
- C. Honesty is being truthful and straightforward.
- D. A lack of honesty is hypocrisy, which is pretending to be what one is not. (Proverbs 26:23)

II. Jesus associated with all sorts of sinners except those who pretended to be something they were not. (Acts 6)

- A. Happiness requires knowing and being known, which cannot occur behind a mask. (Galatians 6:3)
- B. The church should be “unshockable,” democratic and filled with the Spirit of God.

V. This is important to God. (1 Samuel 15)

VI. We are afraid of honesty.

- A. We are not honest because of the fear of gossip.
- B. We are not honest because of the fear of disappointment.
 - 1. We do not let people have pain.
 - 2. We give people pat answers.
 - 3. We skirt the subject.
- C. We are not honest because we fear change.
- D. We are not honest because we fear failure.
- E. We are not honest because we are afraid of sacrifice. (Proverbs 16)

VII. Values.

- A. Honesty is essential to real Christian growth.
- B. Honesty is God’s way for Christians to become a Christian family.
- C. Honesty is essential for knowing and being known.
- D. Honesty is the key to personal effectiveness.

VIII. Areas.

- A. In prayer to God.
- B. In our witness with other people. (Matthew 15:7-9)
- C. With ourselves.

IV. The cost of dishonesty.

- A. Mental and emotional. (Proverbs 14:30)
- B. Death in areas of our life.
- C. A loss of fellowship with God.
- D. Exposure before the world. (Proverbs 12:19; 11:3)

Application questions:

1. What are some ways that you hide behind pretense?

2. Why do we put on masks before people?

3. What will it require to be honest in all areas of life?
