**WALK IN INTEGRITY**

*Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in my integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore, I shall not slide*. (Psa. 26:1).

Integrity is a noun and is defined as (1) Steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code; (2) The state of being unimpaired; soundness; (3) The quality or condition of being whole or undivided; completeness. It is from the root word integrate which means to be whole and complete and is the opposite of broken apart and compartmentalized.

Human beings have a remarkable ability to take something that is perfect and complete and tear it asunder until it is so compartmentalized that it is almost impossible to understand. We routinely take things that are easily understood and make them easily misunderstood. Why do we do things like that?

I’ve too often heard preachers, teachers and Christians in general make much ado about nothing while ignoring the weightier matters. *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone*. (Mt 23:23)

Christ is not rebuking them for tithing but rather is telling them to keep giving but not to the forsaking of spiritual things. They had taken the integrity in God’s command to give and compartmentalized it so that it became a detriment to obedience. *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice*. (1 Samuel 15:22)

If we “lay by in store” on Sunday and tell the obscenest jokes on Monday, we lack integrity. If we no longer rightly divide the word of truth and cause division, we lack integrity. If we integrate error with the purity and completeness of God’s truth, then we lack integrity.

When our convictions are based upon the truth of God’s Word and are in every aspect of our lives, then we have completeness. Integrity eliminates lies, respect of persons, double standards, hypocrisy, and all duplicity.

We must walk in truth. (John 17:17). We must walk in trust. (2 Corinthians 1:9) We must be consistent. (Ephesians 4:14) This is integrity and true religion. Everything else is a sham.