

PERSONAL HONESTY

By Keith Greer

God's word teaches us that He expects His people to have the character trait of "**honesty**." How can we carry out this duty?

Having a good report among men. "Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." {1 Timothy 3:7} In context, this passage is discussing the qualifications for elders, but it is also something that should be true of all of God's children. People we work with and associate with should see us as honest people who deal fairly with all men.

Godly conduct. "Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation." {1 Peter 2:12} The lives of God's people should exemplify that we live a godly life. "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age." {Titus 2:12} Godly living allows us to exert a godly influence on those who observe our honest conduct in the world. Please read Matthew 5:13-16.

Honest things before all men. "Providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." {2 Corinthians 8:21} The Christian's life should be an "open book" before men-what you see is what you get. Our words should mean something to those we associate with. "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one." {Matthew 5:37} Our word should be respected when we give it to all men. Honesty is a character trait that shows others we have a different value and moral code than the world's.

While a Christian lives in a world, that is lost in sin, there should be stark differences in the way we conduct our lives – when compared the way the world does its business. In the world one may cheat on their taxes, cheat on their spouse, fail to do an honest day's work, and be dishonest in all of their business dealings with those in the world. Dear reader, would your loved one, friends and brethren say you're an "**honest person**?" ***