

## **WALK IN INTEGRITY**

**David P. Stevens**

The word integrity is found 16 times in the Old Testament. It is found twice in Psalm 26 where David states, "I will walk in mine integrity" (Psa. 26:11). Integrity is the consistency of convictions based upon truth. The English word integrity comes from the same root as integrate. It means to achieve wholeness, which is the opposite of compartmentalization. Human beings have a remarkable capacity to compartmentalize their lives. We're all familiar with the man who goes to church on Sunday and tells the most obscene jokes on Monday. He is not consistent in expressing his faith in every aspect of his life. He lacks integrity. When our convictions, which are based upon the truth of God's Word, are found in every aspect of our lives, i.e. work, recreation pursuits, family, marriage, and church, then we have wholeness, integration, and integrity.

Integrity eliminates: lies, respect of persons, double standards, hypocrisy, and all duplicity. There are three inseparable links that must be present in order for us to have an authentic faith. The first is truth. We must walk in truth. What is truth? Truth is God's Word (John 17:17). We walk in truth, when we walk in accordance with God's Holy Word. The second link is trust. When we take God at His word, we trust Him implicitly. Trust is conviction. Convictions are our core beliefs. The things we hold sacred must never be compromised. The third is consistency. When we act consistently with our convictions based upon the truth of God's Word, we have integrity. Integrity is wholeness. Integrity means that our faith is expressed in every aspect of our life. This is true religion. Everything else is a sham.