

יהושע בן נוצר
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Integrity VS Hypocrisy



2026-04-06

audio.stmary-ottawa.org/sermons/2026/SMO-2026-04-06-Integrity.pdf

A good tree is known by its fruit



Outer Beauty *but* No Fruit!

Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He [Jesus] was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

In response Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.” And His disciples heard it.

-- Mark 11:12-14



Let no one eat fruit from you ever again



“Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.”

-- Mark 11:21

Hypocrisy



**“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees,
which is hypocrisy”**

-- Luke 12:1

رياء

Integrity



استقامة

Integrity

Consistently acting in accordance with your values.

Your **private** behavior matches your **public** commitments.

There is alignment between:

- what you **believe**,
- what you **say**,
- and what you **do**.



Integrity in Christ

Consistently acting in accordance with *Christian* values.

Your **private** behavior matches your **public** commitments.

Alignment between:

- **your faith**
(*on the inside, what you believe*),
- **your words**
(*what you say*), and
- **your actions**
(*what you do*).



Hypocrisy

Claiming to hold values or standards

that your actions or thoughts contradict

- preaching honesty while lying
- condemning a bad behavior, while you yourself privately engage in it



Hypocrisy

- **Pretending**
to be good
- Wanting to get the
approval of others
- Living a **lie** ...
eventually, **believing the lie**
- Living a double-life
(good outside but not inside)



Dangers of Hypocrisy

- Hypocrisy **hardens** the heart
- Hypocrisy **creeps** in quietly & settles in like a weed
- A very **dangerous** hidden sin
- Only the Lord can weed it out ...
- ***Hypocrisy prevents me from repenting!***



Integrity vs Hypocrisy

- You judge **yourself**
 - You **try & work** to be good
 - You **know** yourself
 - You seek to **please God**
 - You **practice** what you preach
 - You **genuinely** want to change and become better
- You judge & condemn **others**
 - You **pretend** to be good
 - You **fool** yourself
 - You seek **others' praise**
 - You preach "**down to**" others
 - You convince yourself that you are **already righteous**



"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Hypocrisy has many “cousins”

- *The sin of Pride*
- *Judging & Condemning*
- *Anger, Hatred, Lacking Peace*
- *Self-righteousness*
- *Spiritual Blindness*
- *Spiritual Lukewarmness*
- ...
- *Hypocrisy leads to a shallow and fruitless life!*



“Let no one eat fruit from you ever again!”

*“Because you say,
‘I am rich, have become wealthy,
and have need of nothing’—and
do not know that you are
**wretched, miserable, poor,
blind, and naked”***

– Revelation 3:17
to the Angel of the
Church of Laodicea

Wisely focus our effort ...

on trying to become better, not pretending to be righteous!



*“Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick.
I did not come to call the righteous,
but sinners, to repentance.”*

Integrity and its “cousins”

- Self-examination
- **Humility & Honesty**
- **Continual Repentance**
- **Courage** to do what is right
- **Courage** to ask for **God’s help**
- Coming **Closer & Closer** to the Lord
- ...
- *Integrity leads to an authentic & fruitful life!*



“A good tree is known by its fruit.”

Do I want a fruitful life in Christ?

Do I want a fruitful life?

• Gospel (Luke 9:10-17)

Reader:

And the Apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them, and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. And the multitude, when they knew it, followed Him, and He received them, and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.

Do I realize that I need healing?

Do I need healing?

- Seek **healing** from *the One true Physician*
- Seek to be **saved** by *the Only true Saviour*
- Seek to be **forgiven** by *the One who paid the price*
- Seek **comfort** at *the feet of Him who truly loves you*



His arms are open for you & me!

A call to action!

- We have a Healer,
a Helper, a Saviour.
- Do not waste time and
effort convincing others or
yourself that it's "all good"
(AVOID HYPOCRISY)
- Instead seek to have
integrity and run to Him
who alone IS all Good.
(INTEGRITY IN CHRIST)



Thine is the Power!

Choose one...



re·pent·ance
/rəˈpɛnts/

REPENTANCE

*Upward spiral
leading to salvation and
eternal life.*

OR



hy·poc·ri·sy
/həˈpɑkrəsē/

HYPOCRISY

*Downward spiral of lies
leading to condemnation.*

Fight the good fight ...

Do **NOT** waste effort
to PRETEND to be good.

Use your effort & prayers
to **BECOME** better.

Do not worry about looking good ... but about being good.

There is hope!

He has the **power** to cleanse.

The Lord has the **power** to save!

Θωκ τε τχου

Can we really root out this dangerous sin?

**“The things which are impossible
with men are possible with God.”**

Do not worry about looking good ... focus on being good.

Thine is the power!

The Lord has the **power** to save,

He has the **power** to cleanse.

Θωκ τε τ̅ου

But we need to repent.

The Lord asks each of us,

“Do you want to be saved?”

Do not worry about looking good ... but about being good.

Especially during this most Holy Week ...

SEEK INTEGRITY

- Examine **yourself**
- Repent & confess ...
try & work to be better
- Seek to **please God**
- **Practice** what you preach
- **Genuinely** make an effort to become better & better

ROOT OUT HYPOCRISY

- Do **not** judge others
- Do **not** condemn others
- **Forgive** & you will be forgiven
- Do **not pretend** to be good
- Do not seek **others' praise**
- Do not trick yourself into thinking you are **righteous**



“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”