

## Crossville Church of Christ

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# COMPASS

Using God's Word to Chart The Course  
Of A Congregation

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February 6, 2011

“Recompense to no man  
evil for evil. Provide  
things honest in the  
sight of all men”  
(Romans 12:17).

### Elders:

Frank Bohannon

Eddie Brown

Bill Foland

Al Griffin

Jonathan Loveday

Larry McDuffee

Clyde Randolph

### Deacons:

Jim Bell

Jimmy Harris

Doug Loveday

Greg Maxwell

Brian McLaughlin

Mark Roberts

Roger Smith

### Minister:

Barry Kennedy

### Missionaries:

Don Iverson

Jim Waldron

(India)

### Service Times

Sunday Bible Study 9 AM

Sunday Worship 10 AM

6 PM

Wednesday 6 PM

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

#### Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays 11AM

#### Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays 10 AM

#### Joyful Generation

(Youth Devotional & fellowship)

1st Sunday 7:00 PM

# TRUE HONESTY BEGINS WITH ME

**Barry Kennedy**

“Honesty is the best policy” is an age old proverb that has been handed down from generation to generation. It is not hard to see the real value in honesty, but sadly many people only see the value in other people’s honesty.

A USA Today poll found that only 56% of American teach honesty to their children. And a Louis Harris poll turned up the distressing fact that 65% of high school students would cheat on an important exam. Recently a noted physician appeared on a network news-and-talk show and proclaimed, “Lying is an important part of social life, and children who are unable to do it are children who may have developmental problems.” (Daily Bread, September 23, 1991)

Wow! Obviously, most people reading this article are appalled by the above numbers. Christians would never expect their children to have developmental problems if they do not know how to lie. Have we as a society really gone that far? Have we forgotten the woe God promised Israel through the prophet Isaiah? “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20). Society has always needed honesty, and we would all do well to remember that “TRUE HONESTY BEGINS WITH ME.”

The need for honesty is clearly shown by the words of Jesus. “...Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil” (Matthew 5:37). Lies are an offspring of Satan. “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44). Maybe this explains why some people think children who cannot lie have “developmental problems.” Maybe it is the case that those who would say such are simply trying to pass on the “family tradition” (cf John 8:44).

Dishonesty, like any other sin, is easy to see as someone else’s problem and not our own. The truth is that most (if not all) problems could be solved if people would start with themselves. Think about it this way, “How can one expect to “fix” someone else, if they cannot see their own faults?”

“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye (Matthew 7:3-5).

TRUE HONESTY is more than just truth. True honesty carries an idea of acceptance. An honest person can say, “I did wrong, but...” On the other hand, a truly honest person says, “I did wrong, and it is all my fault.” Anyone can have another person tell them that they are wrong, but in order to truly learn the lesson we must tell ourselves. Therein is the idea that TRUE HONESTY BEGINS WITH ME.

How honest are we with ourselves? It can be easy to fool the people around us into thinking that we are something we are not. The real danger is in the fact that Satan wants us to fool ourselves. The truth is, Satan has a much more difficult time with those who are honest with themselves. The heart of the matter is the “heart” of the Christian (Matthew 15:8). It is our responsibility to condition our hearts not to sin (Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 4:23). Let’s put off the masks of hypocrisy, including false honesty, and put on the robes of Christ (Ephesians 4:24). May we never forget that **TRUE HONESTY BEGINS WITH ME.**

# THE BLESSING OF FAITHFULNESS

**Derrick Coble**

"One stormy night an elderly couple entered the lobby of a small hotel and asked for a room. The clerk said they were filled, as were all the hotels in town. 'But I can't send a fine couple like you out in the rain,' he said. 'Would you be willing to sleep in my room?' The couple hesitated, but the clerk insisted. The next morning when the man paid his bill, he said, 'You're the kind of man who should be managing the best hotel in the United States. Someday I'll build you one.' The clerk smiled politely. A few years later the clerk received a letter from the elderly man, recalling that stormy night and asking him to come to New York. A round-trip ticket was enclosed. When the clerk arrived, his host took him to the corner of 5th Avenue and 34th Street, where stood a magnificent new building. 'That,' explained the man, 'is the hotel I have built for you to manage.' The man was William Waldorf Astor, and the hotel was the original Waldorf-Astoria. The young clerk, George C. Boldt, became its first manager."

Faithfulness in the smallest things leads to rewards beyond the imagination. Note the promises of the Scriptures: "A faithful man shall abound with blessings" (Proverbs 28:20a) . . . "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much" (Luke 16:10) . . . "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:23). Faithfulness is moral fidelity, trustworthiness, and firm belief. God is faithful in all things (Hebrews 10:23) and expects no less from His saints (Revelation 2:10).

In other words, God wants everyone to live RIGHT. Dan Winkler has observed that means one must live by God's Revelation (2 Tim. 3:16,17), minding one's Influence (Matthew 5:16), giving God Glory (1 Corinthians 10:31), looking forward to Heaven (Philippians 3:14), and Trusting God by acting in obedient faith (Hebrews 11:6). Of course, the blessings that result from the "right" life are numerous. This is evidenced clearly in the life of "faithful Abraham" (Galatians 3:9).

First, he lived faithfully by God's revelation in leaving his home behind in search of a better country (Genesis 12:1-3; Hebrews 11:16). Can we honestly say that we are fully obedient to God's revealed will? The attitude of the bumper sticker should stick with us, "God said it, I believe it, that settles it." Second, he thought of his influence as he was circumcised at ninety-nine years old and kept the covenant with God by enforcing this command for all males in his house (Genesis 17:23-27; 21:4). Our influence in faithfulness is a great blessing to others in leading them to righteousness (Proverbs 4:11). Third, Abraham glorified God by respecting Him, magnifying, Him and honoring Him. He did not receive the glory but he gave it all to God (Romans 4:1-3). Likewise, faithfulness will cause us to glorify God with our minds, attitudes, worship, and good works (Psalm 29:2). Fourth, Abraham "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). Every Christian who walks in faithfulness knows that there is a home awaiting beyond this life (2 Corinthians 5:1). Finally, faithful Abraham trusted God in one of the most trying moments in his life. "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure" (Hebrews 11:17-19). Faithfulness demands a firm belief that God is able to perform what He says (Romans 4:21). God has promised a crown of life to all the faithful that love Him even through difficult times (James 1:12). With all this in mind, let us consider our own faithfulness in comparison to Abraham. Let us consider the blessings that will be ours if only we endure to the end (Revelation 2:10)!