



Message Discussion Guide Week of July 23, 2023

Message: Word to the Wise, Part 8: Living with Integrity

Key Scriptures: [James 1:19-27](#)

Preacher: Pastor Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

The book of James is a New Testament wisdom book, written by the half-brother of Jesus.

- James was an influential leader in the early church, who guided the church in Jerusalem through famine and persecution.
- His goal in writing is to draw on the wisdom of Proverbs and Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount to help believers put faith into practice.

James' goal is to get believers to turn to God for wisdom, and to live their lives with integrity.

- In architecture, a structure has integrity when all the pieces and parts work together to help the structure stand. Just one piece that is cracked or out of place can compromise the integrity of the whole structure (i.e., a game of Jenga).
- When we have pieces of our lives that are out of place (i.e., things we shouldn't say or do) we lack integrity.

James teaches that the key to living with integrity is to become doers of God's Word.

- It is not enough to merely listen to God's Word. The ultimate deception is to know what God's Word says and not do anything about it.
- Jesus taught that the wise person hears his words and put them into practice, while the foolish man hears his words and doesn't do anything different.

James teaches that in order to be doers of the Word, we need to watch our mouths, being careful that our words align with the gospel we preach. We also need to serve the poor, and in our actions do something to show love to others.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What is integrity? What are some examples you have witnessed of people acting with integrity? Why is integrity an essential for Christian living?
- 2.) [Read James 1:4-5](#)
 - a. Do you ask God for wisdom? What does it mean to pray for wisdom?
 - b. What does it mean to be “mature and complete, lacking nothing?”
- 3.) [Read James 1:19-27](#)
 - a. What does it mean to be a doer of God’s Word?
 - b. What is James saying about the relationship between the words we say and anger?
 - c. What does it mean to care for widows and orphans? What is the relationship between this and living with integrity?
 - d. What wisdom lessons is James teaching in these verses?
- 4.) Are there areas in your life where you lack integrity? What are some practical things you can do to address these areas and to begin living a more consistent life?
- 5.) What is your primary takeaway from this message? How will this message challenge, inspire, and impact your faith this week?

Abundant Life Tip: To live with integrity, our words and actions must align with the gospel we proclaim. Don’t just study God’s Word, find practical ways to put it into action.