

# *Breaking Through* **How to Live With Integrity**

## I. Introduction

- A. I Peter 2:12 (NLT) *Be careful how you live among your unbelieving neighbors. Even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will believe and give honor to God when he comes to judge the world.*
  - 1. People watch to see if you have integrity!

## II. How to Live With Integrity

- A. Stay away from temptation!
  - 1. Psalm 101:2b (NAS) *I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.*
  - 2. “Integrity is what you are like in the dark.” (D. L. Moody)
  - 3. I Peter 2:11 (NLT) *Dear brothers and sisters, you are foreigners and aliens here. So I warn you to keep away from evil desires because they fight against your very souls.*
  - 4. I Peter 2:16 (NLT) *You are not slaves; you are free. But your freedom is not an excuse to do evil. You are free to live as God’s slaves.*
  - 5. “Can a person be a Christian and still do \_\_\_\_\_?”
  - 6. Integrity says, “My life backs up what I say I believe!”
  - 7. I Peter 2:15 (NLT) *It is God’s will that your good lives should silence those who make foolish accusations against you.*
  - 8. God’s will for your life is that you live a life of integrity!
  - 9. You are the only “Bible” that some people will ever read!
- B. “Submit” to delegated authority
  - 1. I Peter 2:13-14 (NLT) <sup>13</sup>*For the Lord’s sake, accept all authority—the king as head of state,<sup>14</sup> and the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish all who do wrong and to honor those who do right.*
    - a. “Submit” - - “to yield your rights voluntarily to someone else”
  - 2. The Bible says there are 4 areas of delegated authority: the government, the workplace, the home, and the church.
  - 3. Romans 13:1-2 (NAS) <sup>1</sup>*Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.* <sup>2</sup>*Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.*
  - 4. I Samuel 15:23a (NAS) *“For rebellion is as the sin of divination.”*
  - 5. I Peter 2:17 (NLT) *Show respect for everyone. Love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God. Show respect for the king.*
  - 6. Three marks of a genuine Christian:
    - a. Honor everyone
      - i. “Racism” - - “a system of advantage based on race”
    - b. Love all Christians
      - i. John 13:35 (NAS) *“By this all men will know that you’re my disciples if you have love one for another.”*
    - c. Fear God and honor the government
      - i. Proverbs 8:13 (NAS) *“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.”*
      - ii. You honor the position, not the personality!
  - 7. I Peter 2:18-19 (NLT) <sup>18</sup>*You who are slaves must accept the authority of your masters. Do whatever they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are harsh.* <sup>19</sup>*For God is pleased with you when, for the sake of your conscience, you patiently endure unfair treatment.*
- C. Have integrity in suffering
  - 1. I Peter 2:21 (NLT) *This suffering is all part of what God has called you to. Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in his steps.*

2. I Peter 2:23 (NLT) *He did not retaliate when he was insulted. When he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.*
3. Matthew 5:16 (NAS) *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

### **III. Conclusion**