

# KEEPING OUR WORD

## Introduction

- 1) There is a constant need for **integrity** and **honesty** in the life of the Christian (Titus 2:12; Prov. 11:3; Heb. 13:18; 1 Thess. 4:12)
- 2) Deceitful words and lives are a serious problem in our world (Prov. 6:17, 19; 10:18-21; 12:17-22)
  - a) People untrue to their words, promises, vows
  - b) Loss of confidence and trust among friends, co-workers, spiritual brethren
  - c) No genuine convictions; no firm stands for truth; shifting allegiances and motive
  - d) Fewer and fewer examples of public honesty and integrity (cf. Prov. 10:9)
- 3) **Ecclesiastes 5:1-7; Numbers 30:2; Ephesians 4:25** – Emphasizes the importance of being faithful to what we say/promise/vow before God and men
- 4) How can we be a godly influence for good if we do not faithfully **keep our word**?

## I) **The Need for Integrity and Honesty**

- A) All of us depend on the integrity of others in this world
  - 1) *Money in bank* – vaults will not keep out those who work there
  - 2) *Insurance policies* – stand behind and fulfill contract with customer
  - 3) *Law enforcement* – enforce the law of the land in fairness toward all
  - 4) *Health care* – proper care and prescribing of medicine for good of patient
- B) Danger comes when someone cannot be trusted to follow rules and tell the truth
- C) Society is in dire need of those who can be trusted to keep their word and deal honestly at all times – am I this kind of person (Matt. 5:33-37)?
- D) Whenever a Christian lies and cheats, he destroys the reputation of integrity and trust that a Christian should always possess (cf. 1 Pet. 3:16)

## II) **Christians as People of Truth**

- A) Our God is faithful to His word and completely trustworthy (Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2)
- B) As His children, we are to be faithful to our word and be trustworthy
  - 1) Put away lying and speak truth (Eph. 4:25; 4:22-24)
  - 2) Be followers and lovers of the truth (Prov. 23:23; 2 Thess. 2:10)
  - 3) Live honorably and honestly before all (Heb. 13:18; 1 Thess. 4:12)

## III) **Daily Application**

- A) **Leadership** – need leaders (government, social and labor groups) willing to say what they believe and stand behind it; not lie and cheat to gain votes and power (Neh. 13:13; Isa. 33:15-16)
- B) **Business** – Deliver the exact product or work promised, not inferior products or service; never cheat customer (“bait and switch” “thumb on scales”) or cheat parent company (Deut. 25:13-16; Prov. 11:1; Lk. 3:12-13)
- C) **Everyday Life** – use of money, returning what is borrowed, children taught to respect what belongs to others, tests, sports, etc. (Psa. 37:21; Prov. 3:27-28; 12:22; Jas. 5:12; Matt. 7:12)
- D) **Marriage** – a man and woman joined with exchanging of vows and promises – total commitment based on love and trust (Eph. 5:28; Titus 2:4)
- E) **Conversion** – vowing to live for God is eternally important (Psa. 66:13-14; Rom. 6:16-18)

## Conclusion

Is your word good? Can you be trusted to do what you say? We can trust God and His word (Prov. 30:5). Can God trust you to obey His word and remain faithful?