

BE HONEST IN ALL YOU SAY AND DO

Note to the speaker:

Motivate the audience to imitate Jehovah, “the God of truth.” Emphasize the benefits of honesty, including gaining Jehovah’s friendship and bringing honor to him

DO YOU VIEW HONESTY AS GOD DOES? (5 min.)

To be honest means to be truthful and to deal with others in a straightforward, honorable way, free of deceit

Sadly, deceit and dishonesty are widespread in today’s world (2Ti 3:5, 13; *g* 10/10 3)

As a result, some believe that they must also resort to dishonesty (*g* 1/12 4-5)

Jehovah is “the God of truth”; Satan is “the father of the lie” (Ps 31:5; Joh 8:44)

Jehovah views dishonesty as a very serious matter (Pr 6:16, 17; Re 21:8)

Anyone professing to be a true worshipper of God must be honest in all things [**Read Hebrews 13:18**]

We want to honor Jehovah by imitating his truthfulness

BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF (5 min.)

Imperfect humans often deceive themselves (Pr 16:25; Jer 17:9)

All of us will render an account for our actions, good or bad (1Ti 5:24, 25; Heb 4:13)

We should pray earnestly for Jehovah to search through us, correct us, and lead us [**Read Psalm 139:23, 24**]

We should humbly evaluate ourselves and be determined to make any needed changes (Jas 1:22-25)

We should approach Christian elders if we need additional help or if serious sin is involved (Jas 5:14, 15)

BE HONEST IN THE FAMILY AND WITH OTHERS (16 min.)

Honesty should be a hallmark of every Christian family

A husband and wife must be open and honest with each other yet also gracious and kind (Eph 4:25-27, 29-32)

Honest mates do not view pornography or cultivate secret relationships (Ps 26:4)

Parents must teach their children to be honest in all they say and do

Parents can use Bible examples, good and bad, to teach the importance of honesty (Ge 43:12; Jos 6:17-19; 7:11-25; 2Ki 5:14-16, 20-27; *lv* 162-163 ¶7-8)

They must also teach by example (Ro 2:21)

Honesty should be evident in how we treat other people, including fellow Christians

We do not speak untruths about others or spread malicious gossip (Le 19:16; Pr 6:16, 18, 19)

We do not distort the truth or give a false impression in order to avoid discipline or gain some advantage

We cannot allow cultural norms or the prevailing views of society to weaken our resolve to be honest

Honesty should govern our dealings in the secular world

Jehovah detests dishonest business practices [**Read Proverbs 11:1**] (*lv* 168 ¶15)

We must honor our word even when it becomes difficult (Ps 15:4; Pr 6:1-5)

We must interact honestly with government authorities (Mt 22:21; Ro 13:1, 7; *w16.05* 30-31; *lv* 169 ¶16)

Those who conduct business honestly find that doing so is practical and beneficial (*g* 1/12 6)

REWARDS OF HONESTY (4 min.)

Honesty results in a good conscience and a good relationship with others (*wp16.1* 7)

Our honesty may attract other people to the truth (2Co 6:4, 7; *w13* 5/15 11 ¶15)

Honesty leads to gaining Jehovah’s friendship (Ps 15:1, 2; Pr 3:32)

Jehovah promises to care for those who reject greed and maintain their honesty (Heb 13:5, 6)

Jehovah, who cannot lie, has promised everlasting life to those who faithfully adhere to Bible principles (Tit 1:2)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]