

# “INTEGRITY FOR LIFE”

## Psalm 26

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### INTRODUCTION

How often do people make you promises that they do not keep? As a pastor, that happens to me all the time!

Webster’s definition: “A being complete; wholeness; unimpaired condition; soundness; uprightness, honesty, and sincerity.”

Are you a person of integrity? Is this how your family and friends would describe you?

Notice how David begins this psalm: “I have walked in my integrity” (v. 1). And, how he ends the psalm: “I shall walk in my integrity” (v. 11).

### **YOU MUST BE A PERSON OF INTEGRITY.**

This psalm shows David with 1) “nothing to hide” since he lives a life of integrity (vv. 1-3); 2) “nothing in common” with the wicked all about him (vv. 4-5); 3) “something to identify with” in the courts of the Lord’s house (6-8); 4) “something to avoid” as he evaluates the wicked who have no future (vv. 9-10); and 5) “everything to live for” as he remains in his integrity and enjoys Yahweh’s redemption and fellowship with His people (vv. 11-12).

#### I. NOTHING TO HIDE (vv. 1-3)

Note the Psalmist’s basic need for the Lord to “judge” him—vindicate him against wrongful accusations.

- A. I have walked in my integrity.
- B. I have trusted in the Lord without wavering—[lit. “I do not slip, slide.”]
- C. I am prepared to be evaluated (2).
  - 1. Use any method appropriate to check my genuineness.
  - 2. Check my emotions (kidneys) the center of my being (my heart)
- D. I base my life on the qualities characteristic of my God and His way of life (3).
  - 1. Loyal love is always before my eyes.
  - 2. I walk in faithfulness and truth.

*Not only do I have nothing to hide, I must have nothing in common with the ungodly around me.*

#### II. NOTHING IN COMMON (4-5)

- A. No sitting with vain and deceitful people—empty, worthless (4)
- B. No ‘going about’ with fakers and hypocrites who cover up and hide.
- C. No assembling with those doing evil—hating that (5).
- D. No sitting with those who are wicked. [cf. Ps. 1]

Our interests and attractions should not be with those who are opposite what God stands for!  
*But there is something special with which I must identify.*

III. SOMETHING TO IDENTIFY WITH (6-8)

- A. Clean hands for worship at His altar (6) [Both the laver and hand washing to protest innocence]
- B. Grateful acknowledgment of God's amazing wonders (v. 7) [cf. "O the Wonder of it All"]
- C. Love for the place of God's manifested presence and glory (8)

How uncommon is it today for "Christians" to enjoy more than anything being in the place where He manifests himself through His Word and Spirit! *But, there is something I must avoid.*

IV. SOMETHING TO AVOID (9-10)

- A. Sinners will face judgment and death at God's hand.
  - 1. These are often guilty of the most heinous sins [bloodshed-9b].
  - 2. These often have "a wicked scheme" (10a).
  - 3. Their favored hand often takes bribes (10b).

- B. Keep my soul and my life [lit. 'lives'] away from that!

*But, my life is not simply a negative; I have something wonderful to live for!*

V. SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR (11-12)

- A. My entire life depends upon **divine grace**: "Redeem me and be gracious to me."
- B. I must live my life with perfect integrity.
- C. My foot shall stand "on a level place." (12)
- D. I will focus on worshiping with the **congregations** of God's people.

CONCLUSION

Yes, I must have **nothing to hide** from the Lord while having **nothing in common** with the vain people of this world. I do have **something special to identify with** in the place and people of God's worship, while I find **something to avoid** in the wicked lives of ruin and destruction of the evil. Meanwhile, I have **something special to live for** in my relationship with God.

I need a life of integrity!

**YOU MUST BE A PERSON OF INTEGRITY.**