



IDENTITY



Dr. Zach Richards
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As Good as Our Word

2 Corinthians 1:12-22

Sermon in a Sentence

Who we are as Christians is tied to the trustworthiness of our word, which also reflects the trustworthiness of the gospel.

Question

Why is it important for us to live as good as our word?

I. We can live with an inner confidence.

- A. Paul opened one of his major concerns of the letter by noting the source of his inner confidence.
 - 1. *Paul's confidence was based on the way that they had conducted themselves before the Corinthians.*
 - 2. *As a result, Paul had a clear conscience.*
- B. Paul's testimony gives us some examples of what we can do to live with inner confidence.
 - 1. *Live simply.*
 - 2. *Live with godly sincerity.*
 - 3. *Avoid fleshly wisdom.*
 - 4. *Live in the grace of God.*
 - 5. *Let your word be steadfast.*
- C. When we live with a clear conscience regarding our conduct toward others, it will give us confidence to stand before anyone.

II. We can live with clear intentions.

- A. Paul explained to the Corinthians what he intended to do regarding his visit that did not work out.
- B. As Christians, we have to be prepared when things do not go the way we planned.
 - 1. *Own it.*
 - 2. *Do our best to make it right.*
- C. Sometimes, how we respond to our mistakes will have a greater impact on others than our successes.

III. We can live with integrity in our witness.

- A. Paul explained to the Corinthians that he was not wavering or untrustworthy; God simply changed his plans.
- B. As Christians, we have to live with integrity.
 - 1. *We must have integrity in our words.*
 - 2. *We must have integrity in our work.*
 - 3. *We must have integrity in our way of life.*
- C. We live in a world that wants us to fail so that they will have a reason to reject the gospel; don't give them one.

IV. We can have integrity with the Word.

- A. Paul reminded the Corinthians that the gospel that they had preached was one of integrity.
- B. The gospel has integrity.
 - 1. *God's promises can be trusted.*
 - 2. *God's process can be trusted.*
 - 3. *God's power can be trusted.*
 - 4. *God's protection can be trusted.*
 - 5. *God's presence can be trusted.*
- C. When we fail to live with integrity in our lives, we rob the gospel of its integrity.
- D. Are we willing to do damage to the work of the gospel by failing to live with integrity for the sake of personal comfort?

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