

Truth, Trust, Integrity, Openness, Deception and Boldness

A Brief Biblical Overview

(all quotations from NIV unless otherwise noted)

Truthfulness is an attribute of God; one which He calls is people to imitate.

- **Isaiah 45:19** “I, the Lord, speak the **truth**; I declare what is right.”
- **Psalm 15:1-2** “Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the **truth** from their heart.”
- **2 Corinthians 6:7** “in **truthful** speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left”ⁱ

Truthfulness is an essential foundation of a relationship of trust. God calls us to trust him based on His truthfulness and to become people who are trustworthy because we are truthful as imitators of our heavenly Father.

- **Psalm 9:10** “Those who know your name will **trust** in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.”
- **Psalm 62:8** “**Trust** in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.”
- **John 14:1** [Jesus said] “**Trust** in God; trust also in me.”
- **Ex 19:9** “The LORD said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their **trust** in you.”
- **1 Timothy 3:11** “In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and **trustworthy** in everything.”
- **Titus 2:10** “[Teach slaves] to show that they can be fully **trusted**, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.”

It’s vital for all God’s children to be people of the truth. This requires a shift in perspective for those who have grown up in a socioreligious context where deception is justified and normal.

- **Colossians 3:9-10** “Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”ⁱⁱ

The Bible calls for wholehearted integrity as a mark of godly character, contrasted to duplicity or crooked ways. (Integrity: “1. the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness. 2. the state of being whole and undivided.”)

- **1 Chronicles 29:17** “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with **integrity**.”

- **Proverbs 10:9** “Whoever walks in **integrity** walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”
- **Proverbs 11:3** “The **integrity** of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.”ⁱⁱⁱ

The Bible presents openness as a positive (though not absolute) value, with Jesus as our prime example.

- **John 18:20** “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.”^{iv}

Deception is consistently portrayed in Scripture as a serious sin (except in cases of warfare or genocide such as Exodus 1).

- **Leviticus 19:11** “Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not **deceive** one another.”
- **2 Timothy 3:13** “evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, **deceiving** and being **deceived**.”
- **Titus 1:10** “For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and **deception**, especially those of the circumcision group.”
- **2 Corinthians 4:2** “Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use **deception**, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the **truth plainly** we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.”
- **2 John 1:7** “I say this because many **deceivers**, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the **deceiver** and the antichrist.”^v

The Bible portrays boldness as a positive (though not absolute) value, including some cases when exercised in situations of persecution or potential persecution.

- **Acts 13:46** “Then Paul and Barnabas answered them **boldly**: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.”
- **Acts 19:8** “Paul entered the synagogue and spoke **boldly** there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.”^{vi}

ⁱ **Other relevant verses about TRUTH:**

[1 Kings 17:24](#)

Then the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the **truth**.”

[1 Kings 22:16](#)

The king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the **truth** in the name of the Lord?”

[John 8:32](#)

Then you will know the **truth**, and the **truth** will set you free.”

[Psalm 25:5](#)

Guide me in your **truth** and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

[Proverbs 14:25](#)

A **truthful** witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful.

[Proverbs 23:23](#)

Buy the **truth** and do not sell it— wisdom, instruction and insight as well.

Proverbs 30:5 (ESV) “Every word of God proves **true**”

[Jeremiah 5:3](#)

Lord, do not your eyes look for **truth**?”

[Zechariah 8:16](#)

These are the things you are to do: Speak the **truth** to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts;

[John 1:14](#)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and **truth**.

[John 1:17](#)

For the law was given through Moses; grace and **truth** came through Jesus Christ.

[John 3:21](#)

But whoever lives by the **truth** comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

[John 4:24](#)

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in **truth**.”

[John 7:18](#)

Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of **truth**; there is nothing false about him.

[John 8:44](#)

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the **truth**, for there is no **truth** in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

[John 14:17](#)

the Spirit of **truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

[John 15:26](#)

[*The Work of the Holy Spirit*] “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of **truth** who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

[John 16:13](#)

But when he, the Spirit of **truth**, comes, he will guide you into all the **truth**. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

[John 17:17](#)

Sanctify them by the **truth**; your word is **truth**.

[Acts 20:30](#)

Even from your own number men will arise and distort the **truth** in order to draw away disciples after them.

[Romans 1:18](#)

[*God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity*] The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the **truth** by their wickedness,

[Romans 1:25](#)

They exchanged the **truth** about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

[Romans 3:7](#)

Someone might argue, “If my falsehood enhances God’s **truthfulness** and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?”

[1 Corinthians 13:6](#)

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the **truth**.

[2 Corinthians 13:8](#)

For we cannot do anything against the **truth**, but only for the **truth**.

[Galatians 5:7](#)

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the **truth**?

[Ephesians 1:13](#)

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of **truth**, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

[Ephesians 4:15](#)

Instead, speaking the **truth** in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

[Ephesians 5:9](#)

(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and **truth**)

[Ephesians 6:14](#)

Stand firm then, with the belt of **truth** buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

[1 Timothy 6:5](#)

and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the **truth** and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

[2 Timothy 2:18](#)

who have departed from the **truth**. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

[2 Timothy 4:4](#)

They will turn their ears away from the **truth** and turn aside to myths.

[1 John 2:4](#)

Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the **truth** is not in that person.

[1 John 4:6](#)

We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of **truth** and the spirit of falsehood.

ⁱⁱ Leaving aside Ali Imran (3): 54 “And (the unbelievers) plotted and planned, and God too planned, and the best of planners is God.” (Yusuf Ali); which Dawood translates: “God is the supreme Plotter.” Many argue this should be translated “the best of deceivers is God,” since “the word *makir* is always used disparagingly, and never in a positive context.” But the relevance of this verse is much disputed.

So consider other **quranic verses and hadith on deception:**

- Bukhari:V7B67N427 "The Prophet said, ‘If I take an oath and later find something else better than that, then I do what is better and expiate my oath.’"
- Qur'an 9:3 "Allah and His Messenger dissolve obligations."
- Qur'an 66:2 "Allah has already sanctioned for you the dissolution of your vows."
Bukhari:V4B52N268 "Allah's Apostle said, ‘War is deceit.’"
- Ishaq:519 "Having got Muhammad's permission, he said, ‘I must tell lies.’ The Apostle said, ‘Tell them.’"
- Ishaq:323 "I am the best of plotters. I deceived them with My guile so that I delivered you from them."
- Ishaq:442 "By Muhammad's order we beguiled them."

“*Takiyya* is defined as dissimulation about one’s Muslim identity. It comes from the verse in the Quran that says, “Let believers not make friends with infidels in preference to the faithful – he that does has nothing to hope for from Allah – except in self-defense (*illaa an-tattaqu minhum tuqah*) (Surah 3:28). This “self-defense” justifies dissimulation. Islamic Sharia Law provides, “When it is possible to achieve an aim by lying but not by telling the truth, it is *permissible* to lie if attaining the goal is permissible, and lying is *obligatory* if the goal is obligatory.” (*Reliance of the Traveler*, Para r8.2)” From “Knowing Four Arabic Words May Save Our Civilization from Islamic Takeover” <http://www.islam-watch.org/authors/139-louis-palme/1095-knowing-four-arabic-words-may-save-our-civilization-from-islamic-takeover.html> accessed 4 Sept 2014

ⁱⁱⁱ **Other relevant verses about INTEGRITY:**

[Proverbs 10:9](#)

Whoever walks in **integrity** walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

[1 Kings 9:4](#)

“As for you, if you walk before me faithfully with **integrity** of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.

[Job 2:3](#)

Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his **integrity**, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

[Psalm 7:8](#)

Let the Lord judge the peoples. Vindicate me, Lord, according to my righteousness, according to my **integrity**, O Most High.

[Psalm 25:21](#)

May **integrity** and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you.

[Psalm 41:12](#)

Because of my **integrity** you uphold me and set me in your presence forever.

[Psalm 78:72](#)

And David shepherded them with **integrity** of heart; with skillful hands he led them.

[Proverbs 13:6](#)

Righteousness guards the person of **integrity**, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

[Isaiah 45:23](#)

By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all **integrity** a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

[Isaiah 59:4](#)

No one calls for justice; no one pleads a case with **integrity**. They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.

[Matthew 22:16](#)

They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of **integrity** and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are.

[2 Corinthians 1:12](#)

[*Paul’s Change of Plans*] Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with **integrity** and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God’s grace.

[Titus 2:7](#)

In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show **integrity**, seriousness

Proverbs 2:7 (ESV)

“he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in **integrity**,

[Proverbs 2:21](#) (ESV)

For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with **integrity** will remain in it,

[Proverbs 19:1](#) (ESV)

Better is a poor person who walks in his **integrity** than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.

[Proverbs 20:7](#) (ESV)

The righteous who walks in his **integrity**— blessed are his children after him!

[Proverbs 28:6](#) (ESV)

Better is a poor man who walks in his **integrity** than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

[Proverbs 28:18](#) (ESV)

Whoever walks in **integrity** will be delivered, but he who is crooked in his ways will suddenly fall.

^{iv} **Other relevant verses about OPENNESS:**

[Proverbs 27:5](#)

Better is **open** rebuke than hidden love.

[Mark 4:22](#)

For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the **open**.

[Luke 8:17](#)

For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the **open**.

[John 12:42](#)

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not **openly** acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;

[Acts 19:18](#)

Many of those who believed now came and **openly** confessed what they had done.

[2 Corinthians 6:11](#)

We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and **opened** wide our hearts to you.

[2 Corinthians 6:13](#)

As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—**open** wide your hearts also.

[Hebrews 13:15](#)

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that **openly** profess his name.

^ **Other relevant verses about DECEPTION:**

[Genesis 3:13](#)

Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent **deceived** me, and I ate.”

[Genesis 31:20](#)

Moreover, Jacob **deceived** Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away.

[Genesis 31:26](#)

Then Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done? You’ve **deceived** me, and you’ve carried off my daughters like captives in war.

[Genesis 31:27](#)

Why did you run off secretly and **deceive** me? Why didn’t you tell me, so I could send you away with joy and singing to the music of timbrels and harps?

[Psalm 12:2](#)

Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor **deception** in their hearts.

[Proverbs 14:5](#)

An honest witness does not **deceive**, but a false witness pours out lies.

[Matthew 24:4](#)

Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one **deceives** you.

[Matthew 24:5](#)

For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will **deceive** many.

[Matthew 24:11](#)

and many false prophets will appear and **deceive** many people.

[Matthew 24:24](#)

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to **deceive**, if possible, even the elect.

[Romans 16:18](#)

For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they **deceive** the minds of naive people.

[Titus 3:3](#)

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, **deceived** and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

^{vi} **Other relevant verses about BOLDNESS:**

[Proverbs 28:1](#)

The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as **bold** as a lion.

[Acts 4:31](#)

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God **boldly**.

[Acts 9:28](#)

So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking **boldly** in the name of the Lord.

[Acts 14:3](#)

So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking **boldly** for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

[Acts 18:26](#)

He began to speak **boldly** in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

[Acts 28:31](#)

He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all **boldness** and without hindrance!