

Honesty

Honesty is a composite term made up of vital component parts each of which is essential to obtain the full meaning thereof.

See the separate studies “Lying and Deceiving” “Stealing and Cheating” for scriptural references and quotes

Dishonesty comprises lying, deceiving, bearing false witness, stealing, cheating, defrauding, bribery and embezzlement.

Lying, deceiving, and bearing false witness is against the will of God

To deceive is to misrepresent or give a false account of something. This could apply to the intentional misuse of scripture. “In the scriptures, to deceive is to cause someone to believe something that is not true.” (LDS.Org)

Stealing is to take something from another dishonestly or unlawfully;

Cheating is to trick someone out of something.

To defraud is obtain by deception or false representation.

Bribery through deceit and threats is part of the sin of stealing.

Embezzlement which is to divert money or goods fraudulently to one’s own use is also part of the sin of stealing.

An honest person is truthful and sincere (free from pretence or deceit)

Honesty

D&C 51:9: “And let every man deal honestly, and be alike among this people, and receive alike, that ye may be one, even as I have commanded you.”

D&C 98:9-10: “Nevertheless, when the wicked rule the people mourn. **Wherefore, honest men and wise men should be sought for diligently**, and good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold; otherwise whatsoever is less than these cometh of evil.”

A of F: 13: “We believe in being Honest.....”

Mosiah 4:28: “And I would that ye should remember, that whosoever among you borroweth of his neighbor should return the thing that he borroweth, according as he doth agree, or else thou shalt commit sin; and perhaps thou shalt cause thy neighbor to commit sin also.”

Philippians 4:8: “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, **whatsoever things are honest**, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

2 Corinthians 4:2: “But have **renounced the hidden things of dishonesty**, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”

An Honest Heart

An honest heart is someone who is sincere (free from pretence or deceit)

D&C 8:1: “....verily, verily, I say unto you, that assuredly as the Lord liveth, who is your God and your Redeemer, even so surely shall you receive a knowledge of whatsoever things you shall ask in faith, **with an honest heart**, believing that you shall receive a knowledge concerning....”

D&C 11:10: “Behold, thou hast a gift, or thou shalt have a gift if thou wilt desire of me in faith, **with an honest heart**, believing in the power of Jesus Christ, or in my power which speaketh unto thee.”

D&C 97:8 “Verily I say unto you, all among them who know **their hearts are honest**, and are broken, and their spirits contrite, and are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice—yea, every sacrifice which I, the Lord, shall command—they are accepted of me.”

Luke 8:15: “But that on the good ground are they, **which in an honest and good heart**, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

Alma 27:27: “the people of Ammon.... were among the people of Nephi, and also numbered among the people who were of the church of God. And they were also distinguished for their zeal towards God, and also towards men; **for they were perfectly honest and upright in all things; and they were firm in the faith of Christ**, even unto the end.”

Quotes

Elder Mark E Petersen Oct 1971 Ensign “Honesty a principle of Salvation”

One of the Articles of Faith of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints includes the expression, “We believe in being honest.” (A of F 1:13.)

But we do not believe in honesty merely as a matter of policy. It is far more important than that. Honesty is a principle of salvation in the kingdom of God. Without it there can be no salvation. Just as no man or woman can be saved without baptism, so no one can be saved without honesty. As we cannot advance in the kingdom of heaven without a resurrection, so we cannot move into celestial realms without honesty.

As God condemns immorality, so he denounces hypocrisy, which is one of the worst forms of dishonesty. When he describes the hell of the world to come, he specifies that dishonest persons will go there. As no unclean thing can enter the presence of the Lord, so no liar nor cheat nor hypocrite can abide in his kingdom. Dishonesty is directly related to selfishness, which is its origin and source. Selfishness is at the root of nearly all the disorders that afflict us, and man’s inhumanity to man continues to make countless thousands mourn.

If all mankind were honest, we could have heaven here on earth. We would have no need for armies or navies, nor even a policeman in the smallest community, for there would be no crime, no invasion of other people's rights, no violence of one person against another.....

But in our society is there anything more widespread than the tendency to lie and deceive?....

We Latter-day Saints believe in God, and because we believe in him, we also believe there is a devil. But the devil himself is a liar—the father of lies—and those who choose to cheat and lie and deceive and misrepresent become his slaves.

Is it any wonder that the scripture says:

“These six things doth the Lord hate:

Yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

A proud look,

A lying tongue,

Hands that shed innocent blood,

An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,

Feet that be swift in running to mischief,

A false witness that speaketh lies, and

He that soweth discord among brethren.” (Prov. 6:16–19.)

In the following verses, the scripture ties this outburst to another heinous sin that is never without its lies and deception—that of lustful sex, which God says will destroy the soul. In modern revelation the Lord describes the hell of the world to come as he lists those who will suffer it, and he says:

“These are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie.

“These are they who suffer the wrath of God on earth.

“These are they who suffer the vengeance of eternal fire.

“These are they who are cast down to hell and suffer the wrath of Almighty God. ...” (D&C 76:103–106.)

If we are interested in the gospel in the least degree, we should live it wholeheartedly. There is no point in deceiving ourselves and becoming victims of our own indiscretion. It is a fact so simple that even a child may understand—that if we are to be saved in the kingdom of heaven, we must live its laws honestly, completely, and wholeheartedly. To be half-hearted

about it is repugnant to the Lord. He has said to the lukewarm that he will spew them from his mouth!

Why do you suppose he commanded that we serve him with all our heart, might, mind, and strength?

Do we not remember that he has said that if we accept his commandments with a doubtful heart and keep them with slothfulness, we are damned? (See D&C 58:29.)

If we are to be Christians in deed, we should remember and keep these sayings:

“... if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” (Matt. 5:23–24.)

“All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.” (Matt. 7:12.)

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Matt. 22:39.)

And do you recall that the Savior gave us this particular commandment: “Thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are”? (Matt. 6:5.) He further explained that “no man can serve two masters. ... Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matt. 6:24.)

There is also this vital scriptural text: “He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house; he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.” (Ps. 101:7.)

When the Almighty spoke from Sinai commanding that we should not steal, in the same breath he said: “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour,” and he also declared that we must covet nothing that is our neighbor’s. (See Ex. 20:16–17.)

In modern revelation he said forcefully: “Thou shalt not lie; he that lieth and will not repent shall be cast out.” (D&C 42:21.)

And he made an important part of Christian teachings this great precept: “Thou shalt not speak evil of thy neighbor, nor do him any harm.” (D&C 42:27.)....”