



January 21, 2018  
Proverbs Part 7  
*“Proverbs: Virtues”*  
Pastor Gary Hamrick

In the last message in his series from the book of Proverbs, Pastor Gary addresses the topic of virtues. The Bible helps us understand that virtues are things that should be present in our lives. The book of Proverbs has something to say about a number of virtues, and Pastor Gary teaches on four in today’s message: humility; kindness; integrity, and honesty (truthfulness).

### Virtues

1. A basic understanding of a virtue is that it can be seen as behavior showing high moral standards; a commendable quality or personal trait; or moral excellence.
2. There are a number of different virtues mentioned in the book of Proverbs, including the following: humility, mercy, kindness, righteousness, patience, peace, integrity, discretion, honesty, hard work, love, and faithfulness.

### Humility

3. Moses was the only man who could say he was humble; and that’s only because God told him to state in writing that he was!
  - a. **Numbers 12:3** - *“(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)”*
4. Don’t take yourself too seriously; gather people around you who are not impressed with you.
  - a. **Proverbs 18:12** - *“Before his downfall a man’s heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.”*

- b. “Winston Churchill was once asked, ‘Doesn’t it thrill you to know that every time you make a speech, the hall is packed to overflowing?’ ‘It’s quite flattering,’ replied Sir Winston. ‘But whenever I feel that way, I always remember that if instead of making a political speech I was being hanged, the crowd would be twice as big.’ ”<sup>1</sup>
5. Fear the Lord, and always remember that all you are and all you have come from the Lord.
    - a. **Proverbs 22:4** – *“Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.”*
    - b. Pastor Gary shared the counsel of one of his pastor friends, who said: “I am one bad decision away from losing everything.”
  6. Celebrate Others; don’t celebrate yourself.
    - a. **Proverbs 27:2** – *“Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.”*
    - b. Someone has said that flattery is like fine perfume; it’s okay to sniff it, but don’t drink it!
  7. Follow the example of Jesus!
    - a. **Matthew 20:26** – *“... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...”*
    - b. Pastor Gary said: “There are a lot of oxymoron’s in the Bible. Things that don’t really make sense, [and things] that seem [to be] contradictory on the surface. [For example,] giving is receiving [or] dying is living. Well, humility comes because you are a servant. And, when you want to be served, that’s really an aspect of pride. So, whoever wants to be first must become last, [and] must be your servant. Greatness comes through leastness.”
    - c. **Philippians 2:8** – *“And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!**”* (Emphasis added)
    - d. **Proverbs 3:34** – *“[God] mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.”*

### Kindness

8. Jesus always modeled kindness and compassion when he interacted with people, including the following examples: the woman who was caught in the act of adultery; the lepers, who were the social outcasts of their day; as well as the diseased, the discouraged, the sinners, and the suffering.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bible.org/node/10552>

- a. **Matthew 9:36** - *“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”*
  - b. Pastor Gary said: “[I] am particularly thankful [about] how much Jesus demonstrated kindness [in the Gospels], because, in a sense, what Jesus did was [masculinized it]... I say that because I think that in particular for men, we think of kindness as [being] a feminine trait. [Because with] kindness [is] associated tenderness... I think, in general, that women are the tender gender; they are the kinder gender. I think it is more fitting with their nature, in terms of being tender and soft and compassionate. I think kindness comes easier to women, [than] it does to men, because men [pride] themselves with being tough and gruff... I think, sometimes for men, the idea of kindness sounds almost feminine... [Jesus] demonstrated it [so men would know that they are called to be kind and compassionate too].”
    - i. **Romans 2:4** - *“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?”*
    - ii. **Colossians 3:12** - *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*
    - iii. **1 Corinthians 13:4a** - *“Love is patient, love is kind.”*
    - iv. **Galatians 5:22-23a** - *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*
9. **Proverbs 14:31** - *“He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”*
10. **Proverbs 11:16-17** - *“A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth. A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself.”*
11. Pastor Gary said: “Kindness is gentleness expressed through tenderness.”

### Integrity

12. **1 Chronicles 29:17a** - *“I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.”*
- a. The Hebrew word for integrity is tamam, which means, completion, wholeness, or something that is clean.

13. Pastor Gary said: "In a moral sense, integrity means that you are whole [or] complete, because you are not divided in your heart, in terms of your principles. You live an undivided [and] uncompromised life... You are not one way in private and another way in public. [You] are consistently principled."
14. It's been said that integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.
15. [Mark 12:14a-b](#) - *"They came to him and said, 'Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.'"*
16. Pastor Gary said: "Jesus was more concerned about pleasing God than pleasing people, and part of integrity is that you and I are more about being God pleasers than man pleasers. The moment you try to be a people pleaser, you will not be making decisions with integrity. You will be making decisions according to whatever is... expeditious at the moment."
17. [Proverbs 10:9](#) - *"The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out."*
18. [Proverbs 11:3](#) - *"The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity."*
19. [Proverbs 13:6](#) - *"Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner."*
20. [Proverbs 29:10](#) - *"Bloodthirsty men hate a man of integrity and seek to kill the upright."*
  - a. Pastor Gary said: "[If] you are really serious about living a life of integrity, there will be people who simply won't like you. [So, we need to] get used to it, [and] expect it..."

#### Honesty (Truthfulness)

21. Everything about God is truth, because he is the source of all truth!
  - a. God is the God of truth.
    - i. [Psalm 31:5](#) - *"... O LORD, the God of truth."*
  - b. The Word of God is truth.
    - i. [Daniel 10:21](#) - *"... the Book of Truth."*
  - c. Jerusalem is called the city of truth.
    - i. [Zechariah 8:3](#) - "

- d. Jesus is the Truth.
    - i. [John 14:6a](#) - *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.' "*
  - e. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth.
    - i. [John 14:17](#) - *"... the Spirit of truth."*
  - f. God doesn't lie.
    - i. [Numbers 23:19](#) - *"God is not a man, that he should lie..."*
    - ii. [Hebrews 6:18](#) - *"... it is impossible for God to lie..."*
22. Pastor Gary said: "Dishonesty can take many forms. Dishonesty can take the form of lies, exaggerations, half-truths, so-called white lies, deception, false accusations, [and] misrepresentation."
23. [Proverbs 12:22](#) - *"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful."*
24. [Proverbs 12:17](#) - *"A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies."*
25. [Proverbs 24:26](#) - *"An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips."*
26. [Proverbs 8:7](#) - *"My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness."*

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read [Proverbs 14:21-35](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Spend time reading the Scriptures and talking about each of the four points Pastor Gary made concerning humility. (See #1 through #6 above)
3. Allow people to share examples of times when they either been humbled by the Lord or times when they've intentionally humbled themselves in obedience to the Lord. (See #7 above)
4. What are some of the ways you are becoming more Christ-like concerning kindness and compassion? (See #8 through #11 above)
5. Do you think others would say you are a person of integrity? (See #13 above)
6. Allow the people in your group to share examples of the ways they are striving to please the Lord instead of pleasing people. (See #16 through #20 above)

7. Read and discuss the Scriptures that help us understand the virtue of honesty/truthfulness. (See #21 through #26 above)
8. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).