

Lifelines

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Topic: Inside-Outside Prov. 3:3

Inside-Outside, Lasting Character

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Have you noticed that there is a deepening void in people and culture, which used to be filled with lasting, healthy values? When parents don't model and instill good character into our children, the effects cause a cascading effect throughout cultures. The Post-Modern's valueless mentality is a large culprit in the decline of timeless morality, honesty, and the valuing of human life. Evolution also played its role in declaring that humans are just an evolutionary accident in Earth's timeline, that humans are merely animals. Teach that stuff long enough, and surprise, surprise: humans are mere biological beings, of no more value than any other animal. The ramifications of that mentality are seen every day on the newscasts. Children kill children, or kill their parents. Some states now allow abortion up until birth, like the baby is merely an unwanted tumor that can be surgically removed with no moral considerations or psychological ramifications.

The world is drowning in violence and destruction. Combine this with the many people who develop a self-centered existence, where everything is subject to pleasing oneself. If not, it or they get cancelled. Those who embrace cancel-culture shrink their world, negating everything with a different perspective. It shrinks one's values, input, information, and perceptions, keeping only "what is true for me."

It's come so far that some female sports teams can't even clearly state what makes a female a female. Why should women's or girls' sports organizations exist, if females can't even be objectively identified? How about using proven DNA and human biology to determine who is a female? How about chromosomes? No, that truth can't be used, because it threatens "my self-centered truth," and would cause me to admit that there is truth that is tangible and provable as objective, verified, real reality. But when you throw out objective truth, and substitute it with what a person "*feels should be true*," then there is no truth left, just imagination. As a result, society encourages people to cancel and throw away anything, and anyone that does not conform to their subjective demands and values.

The Bible is full of truth that has proven true over many centuries. The book of Proverbs was written to train young people to learn from mistakes of the past, and to develop timeless, practical values which would empower them to live a quality life each day. This lifestyle is built upon timeless truths and characteristics which have proven to be true and beneficial in the lives of many people over many centuries. We find two core values in Proverbs 3:3-4 (NASB) which states: "Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, so you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man."

We are told that kindness (committed goodness and love), as well as truth, are two character traits which should be continually present in our lives. The writer stressed that kindness and truth are to show outwardly, symbolically written on a tablet that hangs around your neck, as well as "written"

inwardly in your heart, etched into the core values that direct your decision making and relationships with others.

In verse 4 the Proverb states that if kindness and loyalty to God's truth, are deep-seated in our lives, then we will find our life to be graced by God's favor and blessings. We will also have good relationships with others, and a good reputation among those we relate to. What a great way to live!

God has written the Bible for our benefit, so that we know the values and lifestyle which honors God, ourselves, our relationships, and the world we live in. As we make the Bible's truth and teaching a regular part of our lives, it becomes much easier to determine what is really lasting truth, or merely subjective feeling.

Objective truth has been proven true, and can be relied upon to still, and always, be true. Subjective truth is a quagmire of confusion, stress, and insecurity. Choose God's truth, intertwine your core values with it, and enjoy the benefits of having favor with God and with others you live among. Embrace God's kindness and make it a part of who you are as a person, both inside and outside.

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