

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE AND INTEGRITY

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Abstract

The loss of virtue can be seen in our social, political and economic sector with no exemption to the church. Looking at the variety of platforms that have been explored, integrity has been at the centre of the discussion as there has been a crisis of integrity within the Christian circle, it not only questions the behaviour of the church, but questions arise on the ethical conducts of Christians. Using the exemplars theory, Christians are expected to reproduce the life of Christ. Integrity must be imbibed by Christians in their attitude both in public and private. The church can be used as a tool to guide the attitude of integrity among church leaders. The research adopted a documentation research method by using both primary and secondary data. The primary source of data was sorted from the Bible, while the secondary sources were sorted from published works on the subject matter. The textual analysis method was used to analyse qualitative data collected from our sources. It, therefore, recommends that Christians must behave in a way that shows the characteristics of Christ both in deeds and actions. Therefore, Christians are encouraged to adopt an upright attitude in their regular journey with Christ.

Keywords: Christian, Attitude, Integrity, Ethics, Conduct

Introduction

In recent years, the Church has experienced numerous ethical scandals. Over the years, many institutions, including the Church, have suffered significant controversies and moral declines, leaving people increasingly concerned about Christian conduct. Today there is a growing need for honest Christians. This article focuses on honesty as a concern due to the many controversies involving Christians characterized by abuse of

power, financial mismanagement and sexual harassment. In addition to all of the above problems, infidelity is often seen in many other areas in Christianity, such as lack of capacity and lack of dedication to the faith. Among so many differences, however, many Christians are seen as very spiritual and talented men and women of God, who tend to use charisma to cover the reality of their many skills shortages. It has been acknowledged that integrity is a "fundamental aspect of Christianity, without which Christians cannot reflect light to others as Christ did". "Those who have exceptional spiritual gifts and a high calling never reach their potential because they lack only discipline."¹ For Christians to be sincere, their actions must adapt to their words" (Christianity and the importance of honesty)². In other words, before concluding that a Christian is honest, his words and actions must be parallel. Despite all spiritual gifts, a Christian may behave immorally and be incompetent in various areas of ministry, but in a way, it affects the trust that people have in the faith especially those who doesn't know Christ. From an ethical point of view, members of almost every profession are severely challenged."³ In the Church, the ethical challenge was without a difference". This ethical dilemma includes Christians at all levels, which includes both young, old, civil servants and business owners who are always in contact with unbelievers who are watching their attitude and character at all times. This brings the attitude and integrity of Christians under watch because the world is watching at all times which makes Christian attitude towards integrity more stimulating.

According to moral exemplars theory, people tend to model their attitude after certain heroes who have played an important role that others can reproduce in their life⁴. They are bound to the moral ideas of the exemplar. For Christians, the exemplar is Jesus Christ, Christians are bound to the moral ideas of Jesus Christ while on earth. Christian's teachings have been referenced to Christ, who is foundational to the practice of certain virtues exhibited by his followers. The Disciples of Christ emulated the lifestyle of Christ, through living an upright lifestyle without compromise. This is expected of every Christians as a follower of Christ⁵.

This work is therefore significant in that it explores the expectations of Christian character and how Christians are expected to behave like the

light of the world. The paper adopts the documentation research method through the use of primary and secondary data. The primary source is the bible while the secondary source is published work on the subject matter, while the textual analysis method is used to analyse qualitative data collected from our sources.⁶

Biblical Conceptualization of Integrity

This paper takes an in-depth look at integrity the idea of integrity as an attitude and as a virtue that can be imbibed as it is frequently talked about, but when critically searched, many people do not reflect the culture of integrity in their everyday life. The word integrity can be traced to the Latin root which means “Whole”, and signifies a dignified personality. In different circumstances a whole person lives well, he/she is not divided or otherwise. This is a person who is devoid of controversies when it comes to characteristics exhibited both in public and in private.

During the speech on the mountain, Jesus spoke to those that were "to pure heart" (Matthew 5:8), indicating he was unable to obey the commandments of God. Therefore, honesty does not only mean indivisibility but also spiritual purity. The Bible is full of signs of attitude, integrity and moral pureness. Consider only a few Old Testament references to integrity. In 1 Kings 9:4, God orders Solomon with "honesty and sincerity" to walk like his father. In 1 Chronicle 29:17, David says, "I know, O my God, that you feel your heart, and that you are satisfied with integrity." And in Psalm 78:70-72, we read, "David with the integrity of heart and skilful hands." The Book of Proverbs offers numerous verses about integrity. Proverbs 10:9 says: "He that entereth in integrity is saved, but he that turneth back his way shall be found." A stable individual has a good reputation and is not afraid of discovery or discovery. Integrity has a stable live site to deliver. Proverbs 11:3 says, "The honour of the just will lead them, but they will be ruined by the traitor's lie." The lyrics are a book of wisdom. The sage should lead an integrity life that is part of wisdom. All who pursue greed or lies are tainted by their life decisions and actions.

Proverbs 20:7 says, “A righteous man who walks in his integrity; How blessed are his sons after him.” Integrity leaves a legacy. A righteous man

or woman walks in integrity and provides a path for his or her children to follow.

All of these verses imply a sense of duty and a consciousness that we have to understand God's will in our lives. This will take people with strong aptitude and honesty to be Word students, and then faithfully seek to incorporate the Word of God in their lives. James' book exhorts us to be "writers of the word, and not just pretending to listen" (James 1:22). That is my goal in this post, as we speak about Christian discourse's attitude and dignity.

The Nexus between Integrity and Attitude

Today, integrity has become a major issue around the globe. People tend to be lacking in integrity in every sector with no exclusion to the religious sector too. The challenge of finding an integrity fellow is ravaging in the world today bringing trust crisis with no exceptions to Christians. In recent years, the Church and its members are not excluded; honesty was a major issue in government, organization and church. The trends of all religions and various religious beliefs are evident amongst attitudes exhibited outside the religious circle. The attitudinal challenges faced by Christians include sexual harassment, misbehaviour, greed, money love, violations of moral values, and incompetence. The details are multiple and painful and need attention immediately.

The Church has suffered over the years from a lack of honesty among members and a significant loss of credibility in the world. The goal of this study is to examine changes in awareness, attitudes and behaviour among Christians given the prevalence⁵⁷ of this credibility crisis in the society. Sadly, over the years there has been a huge increase in the morality exhibited among Christians by exhibiting low moral standards by portraying a lack of honesty which is identical to what is in the lay world. There are numerous references to honesty, character and spiritual pureness in the Bible. The scriptures contain a detailed set of case studies on honesty and are full of stories of great leaders who had integrity and those who had no integrity.

Moral integrity requires sincerity and (or integration) authenticity; In other words, a person of honesty doesn't break or cheat.⁸ An integral human, in other words, does not live a fragmented or dualistic life where there is a distinction between what he says and how he behaves. Even an individual with "bilateral" honesty is not behaving in any way when operating in a completely different way with a group and other groups. Moreover, a person of honesty is not guilty of sharing his/her life, causing dissonance in what is considered appropriate conduct at home and work. An individual can, for example, practice the virtue of fairness at home but when they work they are cruel and unjust.

Like philosophers and moral teachers for a while, the principles of law and evil stress have and this remains important is -,

... Some say that our concern for solving ethical problems has led to neglecting the concern for "character", the type of person we are. These more recent rumours suggest that our moral development, our ethical education and the conception of our consciousness are even more important than the formulation of the rules of good and evil and use. People of integrity and communities with strong and clear ethical traditions have the "character" that it is necessary to do the right thing. The excessive emphasis on decision-making places the cart in front of the horse.⁷

What's the true mentality, then? The attitude of a person is reflected, in the tendency to act, to feel and to think in a definable way⁹. A person with a moral attitude is someone who displays attributes and attitudes that warrant emulation, someone who follows values and virtues that can be considered normative. A moral character is someone "who knows what is right and dares to act accordingly". Brown also recognizes three attitudinal elements: awareness, purpose and virtue⁷.

Perception goes beyond sensitivity or depiction; it is how people internalize and interpret experiences selectively to establish meaning for

themselves. Often their basic symbols, beliefs, or paradigms determine how people perceive, select, interpret, and assess events and actions. To Christians (and other religious believers), this universal concept is God's will, for others, it could be a personal gain, collective will or something else. This model is not set, it can be modified or even changed significantly, but it is the context under which views of people and moral ideas work. Within a later portion of this paper, the possibilities of shaping or changing certain beliefs through ethical dialogue and education are explored.

Purpose requires that there be free will (choice) and obligation. Intentions are not merely individual actions or decisions; they are clear behavioural patterns or behaviours. The purpose is in that sense an important part of the character. This means employees at the business act ethically, either because they are forced to do so, or because they choose consciously and are willing to do so. Those that do not knowingly behave ethically even if they believe they will be arrested and disciplined if they do not. If the opportunity is presented to commit fraud without being detected, a person motivated by internal moral integrity would likely threaten them even more. As described above, the effectiveness of an ethical management approach focused on values is therefore related to ethical integrity.

The third dimension of the moral approach is morality. Virtues such as fairness, integrity and self-control are character-showing practices or behavioural patterns. A virtue exposes and communicates character; demonstrates how people are usually ready for action, and demonstrates what they are. The effect of a default font may be to what degree anything is considered to mimic able and admired. Virtues aren't static but are made apparent in life circumstances by actions. It is important to note that, through education and practice, values are not innate: they are learned or developed. It means they have to recognize and uphold the virtues. If moral education takes place in classrooms, families, neighbourhoods and workplaces in society, and is often supported by prominent media, such as the dominant chances of ethical conduct in the society.

It is important to note, that virtues are linked to attitude and moral habits. It isn't just the technical skills or abilities. Virtues are therefore an integral part of behaviour, with awareness and purpose. Combining these three acts, then we will have someone who has a positive attitude and honesty.

Perception for a Christian Attitude and Integrity

This article focuses on three key attributes that can be seen in a person with a good attitude and with a healthy conscience. One such quality is integrity. People may decide to kill themselves by telling the truth, which is not a virtue. We may suggest that we want people to know the truth but we're not doing it alone. We believe that we are just a small box of dishonesty. Let's say we want to be frank with people but instead we cheat on our taxes. Let's say we want people to obey the law but then we're going over the speed limit "a little." To relax our consciences we want to be frank enough. This is just like a man's tale, who sent a letter to the Internal Revenue Service. He said, "I betrayed my income taxes and I felt so bad I couldn't sleep. Included is a \$150 check. However, if I can't sleep yet, I'll send the rest of my debts."

Many of us can relate to this man. We try to be honest but it's easier to be dishonest sometimes. And let's try to find a way to compromise our beliefs so that our conscience is not disrupted by a little lie.

Reliability

Talking about Christian integrity, reliability is a great feature any Christian must possess. The action of a Christian must be void of controversies as he/she is must willing to follow biblical instructions, standing out even in this unethical world. A person with a good attitude and honesty knows that not everything is grey. Some principles need to be respected and encouraged. Some ideals have to shape our lives. We are responsible for obeying God's law and not the crowd. As the Book of Proverbs talks of "the dignity of the faithful," it means we obey God's will and laws. We have an obligation in our lives to fulfil God's utter commandments and to become whole men and women.

Private Life

People tend to behave differently while they are in the midst of a group of people. A story of a Long Beach guy who went to a KFC to buy a chicken for him and his girlfriend was featured in a newspaper years ago. He was waiting in the car, grabbing the chicken. Accidentally, the store manager gave the guy the package in which he had deposited the financial capital of the day, rather than the chicken package. You see, he had to make a deposit and by placing the money into a box of fried chicken, he camouflaged it. The boy took the box, went back to the car and the two left. Arriving at the park and opening the package, they discovered they had a package full of money. The average person has had a very vulnerable time. He returned to the vehicle, returned to the scene and returned the money to the manager when he realized the mistake. Okay, the president was overjoyed! He was so happy that he said to the young man, "Stay here, I want to call the newspaper, and let your photo be taken." Oh no, don't do that!" said the boy.

"Why not?" asked the director.

"Well," he said, "You see, I'm married and the woman who's here with me is not my wife." He had not considered the consequences of his actions. Even though he did something right, it turned out he'd done something wrong. An integrated and honest individual with a positive attitude and honesty. Attitudes and acts don't repeat.¹⁰ When the Apostle Paul listed an elder's qualifications in the church, he said, "He must have a good reputation with those outside the church, lest the devil should accuse him and imprison him" (1 Tim. 3:1-7) Not only is this a desirable feature for elders in the church. That is a level to which we all strive. Christians should be "uncensored" in their public witness to the world they observe.

Public Testimony

It has been said that we are perhaps the only Bible some people have ever read. In other words, people around us often judge Christianity's truth as it has been reflected in the way we live. If they see us as hypocrites, you can't look to the Gospel anymore. We meet those people who are watching us every day. Your life will show them if Christianity is true or not. They appreciate your actions and your attitudes. Have we just made the right choice?

He realized that it was tight this week and that it was just what he needed to tie, enough for lunch. He was struggling with himself in his office.

Finally, he stopped and got up, and could not live with himself. He went to the tram driver and said, "Here, You gave me a lot of changes. You made a mistake." The driver said, "No, it wasn't a mistake. You see, I was in church last night when you talked about honesty and I thought about testing you. Luckily the pastor passed the test. Take the test when you don't believe in yourself and your life. When we live a life full of good attitudes and integrity, chances arise for evangelism and service. Otherwise, those options are going to run dry. This paper opens our eyes to a positive mindset and honesty in building a future. In a sense, it is a lifelong process. But we have to start somewhere. Our life is the set of choices we have made in the past, good and bad choices.

Forgiveness

To a Christian who wishes to preserve his dignity, essential love cannot be removed from forgiveness. So you must learn to love and to accept everything as a leader to remain just and honest. Paul warns: living in peace with all men is very significant, no matter the circumstance (Luke 12:18).

Stewardship

Christians are always involved in moral conflicts, sometimes they have to choose between the best and the very best. This is particularly true for business operations: companies face moral risks, that is, actions that result in uncertain and can have side effects. Negative transactions with securities can be duplicated, which applies to the fact that the actions have more general results, which may have behavioural effects or sometimes cause serious side effects.¹¹ We are not talking of bad deeds in ourselves, but actions in good faith, even if they do not have any negative side effects that adhere to impeccable values. An oil company, for example, has a very important role in driving modern society's wheels, but, despite its good intentions and sound commercial policies, it can cause environmental suffering. The tobacco industry works very hard and creates a large number of jobs, particularly in developing countries. Smoking, however, is unhealthy and can lead to many diseases. The same is true of the healthcare, spiritual and arms industries. What are the measures taken on the negative side effects? Another approach is to completely disregard the side effects and claim that the positive effects

are greater than those negative. This is not, however, the way to claim real responsibility.¹² It was a moral right to claim that businesses must manage adverse side effects and minimize loss if they want to be proud and grateful for what they do. In like manner, Christians have to take responsibility for their actions whether good or bad and then make an adjustment based on the possible adverse effect.

Altruism

Neoliberalism fosters the ideology of the corporate interest of the organizations. According to this paradigm, organizations must be driven by their interests. Companies need to be active in business and build capital, which helps them to get full income. Society behaves in this way socially, as good business drives everyone. Enterprises have a specific social responsibility: use their capital and engage in activities that seek to maximize profitability while staying within the laws of the game, namely: transparent and fair competition, without cheating or fraud.¹³ Well, then everything is fine. An organization must first play a social role in dealing with disinterested problems. Christian ethical rule of self-denial has been debated over and over again¹⁴. The principle of selflessness in the context of business ethics means that Christians are active in setting priorities so that the ultimate goal, as suggested in the "strictly oriented" view, is not maximum profit at any cost. Often, different sections of the business must be prepared to remove barriers and achieve higher ethical goals. Doing good does not mean simply doing good, but doing what is morally right.¹⁵

In the modern sense of corporate ethics, this statement suggests that the success of a business at the end of the day is not just about profits and other financial outcomes, but about the "positive" it has accomplished. To accomplish this "benefit" in the sense that the person would be able to settle for less material gain is necessary altruism. Being "good" can mean satisfying yourself with reduced profits and income.

Obedience

The work of God in Christ is healing and restoration. In this world, the kingdom that promises and fulfils is the new humanity of peace and justice. According to Christ's attitude, obedience to God plays an active

role in healing the world today. From a Christian point of view, business economics is also an agent of the kingdom to come. Just as Christ focuses on healing, reconciliation, development, human fulfilment and the positive growth of good and beauty, so the company must maintain the same values and ideals. A society that deals with destruction, such as profiting from insignificant war or killing the creation of God with contamination, upsets the kingdom.

In addition, the company that manages people in dehumanization for inhuman abuse and wages or working hours is hindering God's plan for a new humanity. Entrepreneurs must adhere to these principles in their business behaviour and the economic context must be the harbinger of these principles. They must be prophets before they are managers, investors, shareholders or other interested parties: healthy and committed entrepreneurs. An investment in a company must be an investment in the realm of the future and the development of new humanity. Participation in a human development project is involved in God's programme to renew all creation. All this means that the activity itself is neither good nor bad. It all depends on the obedience of the people involved. Ideals, objectives, strategies and actions are characteristics of the company. They determine whether the company is an obstructionist or a lawyer in the kingdom for his obedience or disobedience to God.

Prize the Word of God

The Bible is the basic source for Christians who believe in the gospel, the supreme authority on Christian ethics. Like Ezra, any leader who wishes to maintain his dignity must at all times "engage in the study of the Law of the Lord, do it and teach its statutes and laws" (cf. Ezra 7:10). Jesus was able to resolve all his temptations, because in his response "it is written" he understood the Word of God as evident.

Be intentional

Another way for Christians to keep their integrity intact is the intention in their heart, like Daniel, is not being corrupted (Daniel 1:8) or like Job, who claimed to have made an eye pact to stop looking with lust (see Job 31:1). They thought that they would not allow themselves to be carried

away by the triple evil: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life while focusing on their mission. They understood that man was not to live on bread alone, nor on place or wealth, but on every word that comes from God's mouth. (Cf. Matthew 4: 1-11).

Do not be naive: Jesus' words in this context are pure, Jesus said: "Behold, I send you as a sheep among the wolves, so be wise as snakes and harmless as pigeons." (Matthew 10:16) Jesus said that those who "must be clever (without being sinful) and innocent (without being naive) must be vigilant in knowing the danger and choosing ways to resist it or to avoid it in general, just as they were.

Conclusion

Put simply, every Christian anywhere should evaluate biblical standards in his/her conduct and never consider them irrelevant. Rules like love, justice, equity, marital fidelity and sexual purity, prudence and responsibility, modesty, self-control and/or discipline, non-violence, honesty and/or sincerity, satisfaction, loyalty, humility and mercy. Without forgetting the golden rule "Do to others what you would like to be done to you". And the Bible tells us that there are tremendous benefits of Christian integrity that come from honesty. Protective advantages (Proverbs 2:6-8),

Blessings for future generations (Proverbs 20:7; Psalm 37:25), Guidance (Proverbs 11:3) Prosperity (1 Kings 2:2, 3) and fair inheritance (Proverbs 2:20-21).

Each Christian must understand the need to uphold integrity. Since the vertical position isn't always straight, the deviation may shift the feet. The world respect and appreciates individuals with integrity. The greatest need in the world is the need of people: people who are not going to be bought or sold, men who are truthful and sincere in their hearts, men who are not afraid of calling sin for their sins, the right name, men whose conscience is still obedient, men who are not afraid of calling sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as real as the needle to the pole, men who are going to stand up for it¹⁶.

ENDNOTES

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