



“INTEGRITY ROCKS”

Series: “WINNING WAYS: What Champions Know and Do”, Part 2 of 9
Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:1

Big Idea: Our message will always be heard in context with our character. John Stott

“The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.” Oxford Dictionary

THE CONTEXT IN CORINTH...

2 Corinthians 1:12, “Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God’s grace.”

2 Corinthians 1:13a, “For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand.”

2 Corinthians 1:13b-17, “And I hope that, as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus. Because I was confident of this, I planned to visit you first so that you might benefit twice. I planned to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to have you send me on my way to Judea. When I planned this, did I do it lightly? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say, “Yes, yes” and “No, no”?”

2 Corinthians 1:18, “But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.”

2 Corinthians 1:19-22, “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.” For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

2 Corinthians 1:23-2:1, "I call God as my witness that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm. So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you."

I. A consistent life of integrity is our greatest source of impact.

Bryan Clay said: I guess that definition has changed for me over time... While some people believe athletic performance/achievement is enough to define greatness, I'd argue there has to be more. I mean if you achieve great feats but you lie, cheat, steal, or sell your soul to do so, does that really count? I guess I'm just an advocate for looking at someone's entire life before deciding if they are great. Please recognize that I didn't say they had to be perfect -- no one will ever be -- just that it should include more than just athleticism."

"The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, whether it is on a football field, in an army, or in an office." Dwight D. Eisenhower

II. Integrity will always be tested, so consider the long-term effect of your decisions.