

## Job Interviews

Recently I was interviewed for a job. Several of the men that I would be working for, and with, if I were hired, were given the opportunity to meet with me in private and ask questions. Some of the questions were very challenging. One was, “What is your definition of the word ‘integrity?’”

This week, the news has been full of stories of billionaire Rupert Murdoch. The wiretapping and bribery scandal involving Murdoch has been described as the worst in modern British history. Heads have fallen throughout the Murdoch empire including a host of high-ranking executives, reporters, insiders and other players who are either under investigation or under arrest as the result of a wiretapping and bribery scandal that has been described as the worst in modern British history. The US Congress and The Federal Bureau of Investigation are now actively looking into the possibility that similar acts may have been accomplished here in the United States by agents in the employ of Murdoch.

Stories like this lead us to decry, “Aren’t there any men of integrity?” But, what is integrity? God is integrity. He does not merely act with integrity; integrity is his character. The biblical virtue of integrity points to a consistency between what is inside and what is outside, between belief and behavior, our words and our ways, our attitudes and our actions, our values and our practice.

God’s holiness is truly awesome, and our natural reaction to him is one of fear. But there is another side of his nature, his closeness to us that somehow allows us to have this relationship with him. Jesus, the mediator between God and man, makes it possible for us to avoid being consumed by his awesome holiness, and instead to be declared righteous. That is amazing. As last week’s article highlighted, God says that you are righteous. How is that possible? It’s because Christ himself is in us.

Being people who do not manifest integrity is inconsistent with the dignity and destiny we’ve been created for and called to. We have been called to live on a higher plane than that, to “live a life worthy of the calling [we] have received” (Ephesians 4:1), because, now, Christ is in us. He wants to live his life through us (Galatians 2:20); we are not only his representatives (2 Corinthians 5:20), as members of his church we are, in some mysterious way, his body (Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 1:24). Now, that’s impossible unless he dwells in us, but therein lays the solution. In fact, this is the genius of the Christian life. Christianity is not a religion; it’s a relationship. Christianity is not about rules and regulations. Instead, it is the presence and power of a person who indwells us and promises to never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). When we live our entire lives before the face of God and practice a constant abiding in his presence, we realize the transforming power to live lives of true integrity.

As men, we tend to rise up in righteous indignation and condemn those who lack integrity, but it’s very humbling for us to realize that we too are powerless to live lives of integrity out of our own will-power to do so. We need the transforming power of the Holy Spirit!