



SUNDAY SERMON

RECAP

24 August 2025

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Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: A life of integrity

Pastor: John Roebert

Scripture Reading: Psalm 101:1-8 (NLT)

Introduction

This message can undergird us and strengthen us in righteous living. It is a call to integrity in the midst of a world of compromise.

We serve a God of love, but He is also a God of justice and moral integrity. He is a holy God.

The more we seek His presence, the more we should be transformed into His likeness.

Psalm 101 is a Psalm of David. David is passionate about living a life of integrity.

1. Our country is facing a massive crisis of corruption.

The following quote was in the Mail and Guardian in July:

“Corruption has penetrated every layer of society, and become intrinsic in the system, eroding trust, institutions and the moral fabric of the nation”.

Some examples of corruption:

- VBS looting
- US dollars in a couch
- Tender fraud
- Guptas
- State capture
- Corrupt politicians
- Crime syndicates
- Zondo commission
- Failure of SOE's
- Obstruction of criminal justice
- Construction, water, and taxi mafias
- Copper cable theft

Corruption is a global problem. It takes place where there are no systems of good governance. But ultimately corruption is a matter of the heart. Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

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The good news is that God can completely transform the heart of a person.

It will take a miracle to curb corruption, and this miracle is in the hands of God's people.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Prayer is the greatest weapon in our armoury to bring about change. But in addition to prayer we also need to demonstrate the right example, and influence our society for righteousness.

2. In the midst of a crooked culture, God's people have a duty to walk in integrity.

We can choose a life of integrity, and choose to be righteous and holy, even when others around us fall into corruption.

See Psalm 101:1

God is a just and holy God. He is the solution to all societies corruption problems. No other religion can provide this kind of hope. Jesus is still the answer for the nation of South Africa. He teaches us to live upright and just lives.

Psalm 89:14 (NKJV)

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face.

As disciples of Jesus, we can learn to walk like Him.

See Psalm 101:2 (NLT) (The key verse in the passage)

"I will be careful to live a blameless life—when will you come to help me? I will lead a life of integrity in my own home."

A decision to walk in integrity needs to be made before the temptation comes. Make this decision before the Lord. When we do this, the Holy Spirit comes alongside us to strengthen us.

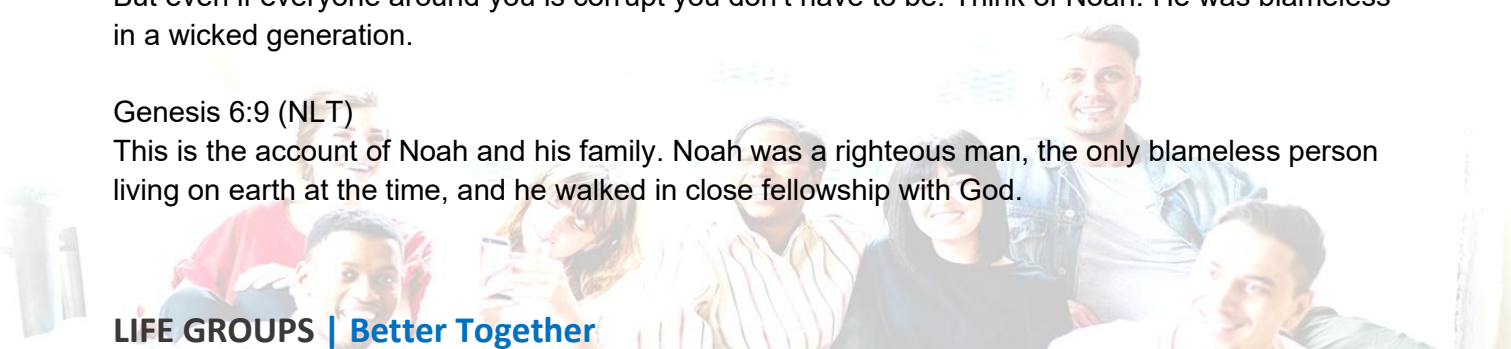
Some people say, "But everyone is doing it (being corrupt)".

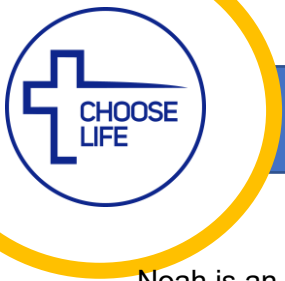
This is not true. There are many people who are living lives of integrity.

But even if everyone around you is corrupt you don't have to be. Think of Noah. He was blameless in a wicked generation.

Genesis 6:9 (NLT)

This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.





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Noah is an example of doing what is right, even if you are the only person choosing to do so.

Philippians 2:15 (NKJV)

Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

South Africa desperately needs righteous men and women of God who will declare like David, "I will be careful to live a blameless life—when will you come to help me? I will lead a life of integrity in my own home."

3. Say "NO" to bribery.

Psalms 101:3 (NKJV and CEV)

Bribery may seem like a small thing but it is corrupt. And it may start small but it can grow and grow and eventually result in your conscience being seared as if with a hot iron.

Proverbs 15:27 (NIV)

The greedy bring ruin to their households, but the one who hates bribes will live.

Proverbs 17:23 (NIV)

The wicked accept bribes in secret to pervert the course of justice.

Proverbs 29:4 (NIV)

By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down.

Ecclesiastes 7:7 (NIV)

Extortion turns a wise person into a fool, and a bribe corrupts the heart.

Some people may say, "But if I don't bribe I won't get the business". The answer is "So ... don't get that business."

This is a matter of trust. If our trust in that transaction / business deal, or is our trust in God who gives a person the power to get wealth.

Story of a neighbour in one of the properties bordering the church. He wouldn't give us access to a property that we had purchased. Asked for a R20000 bribe. Exec team refused. It eventually took a long and costly legal case. But we value the blessing of the Lord.

It is ALWAYS the best thing to love righteousness and hate wickedness. Jesus is our example!

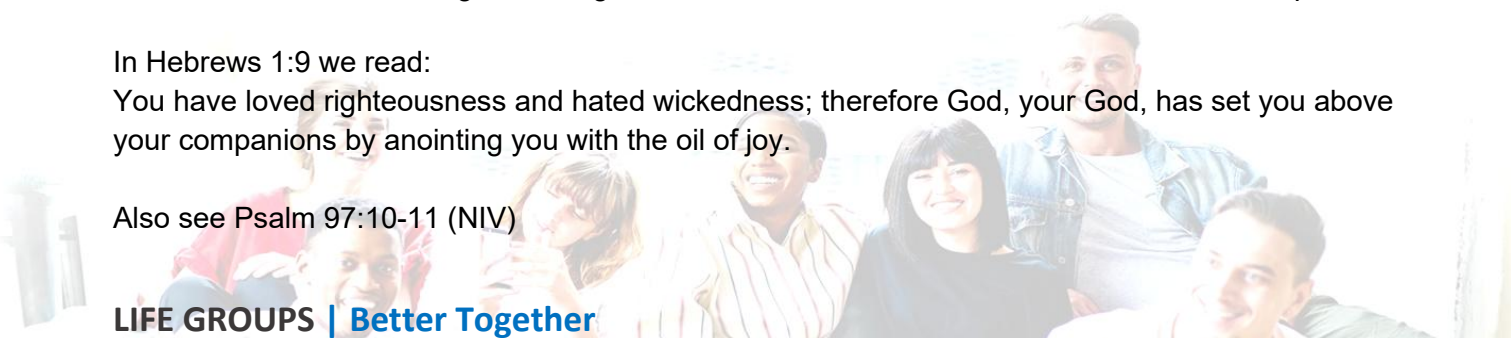
In Hebrews 1:9 we read:

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.

Also see Psalm 97:10-11 (NIV)

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4. Our integrity should reach beyond our home and influence our society.

Psalm 101:8 (NKJV & TPT)

As God's children, as disciples of Jesus, we should be influencing people in our spheres of influence. Influencing them for righteousness!

Quote:

"All that is necessary for evil to prosper is for good people to do nothing."

What can you do to influence the society around you?

Ideas:

- Join a Community Policing Forum
- Get involved in the Parents Teachers Association at the school your kids attend
- Join a homeowners association
- Make use of social media
- Have conversations with family members, friends, colleagues etc.
- Support prayer initiatives (Reminder of 3 days of prayer for our city at Eastside community church – 28-30 August).

God is the potter; we are the clay. Never stop being shaped into the image of Jesus.



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