

## Godly Sincerity

### I. Introduction:

#### A. Think about the word “godly” (**Psalms 4:3**).

1. A Hebrew lexicon defines the word “קַדִּים” (Strong’s # 2623) as: “(1) faithful, kind, godly, holy one, saint, pious; 1a) kind; 1b) pious, godly; 1c) faithful ones (substantive)” (BDB).

2. That Hebrew word was translated “holy” (**Deuteronomy 33:8**), “saints” (**I Samuel 2:9**, **II Chronicles 6:41**, and **Psalms 30:4**), “merciful” (**II Samuel 22:26** and **Psalms 18:25**), “the godly man” (**Psalms 12:1**), “holy” (**Psalms 145:17**), “good” (**Micah 7:2**), etc. \*The Hebrew word appears 32 times in the O.T.

3. Seeing these things, we should easily be able to conclude that being godly is the same as being like God (**Leviticus 11:45**, **Ephesians 5:1-2**, **I Peter 1:13-16**, and **I John 2:1-6**).

#### B. “Godly” sets apart one’s action from that which is of the world (**II Corinthians 7:9-11**).

1. Being “godly” is about actions (**II Timothy 3:12**).

2. Being “godly” is a way of living (**Titus 2:11-14**).

### II. Body: **II Corinthians 1:12**

A. In a context about disciplining a fornicator in the congregation that assembled in Corinth (**I Corinthians 5:1-13**), we see that sincerity is in contrast to malice and wickedness (**I Corinthians 5:8**).

1. The English word can be used to describe something genuine opposed to fake (**Ephesians 6:24** and **Philippians 1:10**).

2. Some do the “right things” for the wrong reasons (**Philippians 1:12-18**).

3. Sincerity is also spoken of in the Scriptures in contrast to corruption, in the sense of being spotless; pure (**Joshua 24:14** and **Titus 2:7**).

B. Taking this point forward, consider unfeigned [sincere; without hypocrisy] love (**I Peter 1:22**).

1. The sincerity of the love for brethren was challenged to the Corinthians to prove such by their aid of needy saints (**II Corinthians 8:8**). \* For context see: **I Corinthians 16:1-4** and **II Corinthians 8:1-9:13**

a. How could someone say they sincerely love their brethren if their actions do not support such a statement (**James 2:14-17**)?

b. We know we are of the truth when our actions in the love of our brethren prove such (**I John 3:14-19**).

2. Consider the insincerity of the talebearer (**Proverbs 26:20-28**).

3. In general, sincere love is seen not just in our actions of love but also in the way we treat, consider evil (**Romans 12:9**).

C. Faith is to be sincere; without hypocrisy; undisguised (**I Timothy 1:5** and **II Timothy 1:5**).

1. There were/are those whose faith is fake (**I John 2:18-19**).
2. There were/are those who do works that would suggest being a people of the faith, but they are fake too (**Matthew 7:21-23**).
3. Genuine faith is not just an intellectual concept, but the engine by which God's people move (**Romans 4:16-25**).

III. Conclusion: The English word "sincere" means: "Free from pretense or deceit; proceeding from genuine feelings" (New Oxford American Dictionary). This leads me to think about true and truth. We need to be a people of the truth and in the truth (**Psalms 119:30**, **Psalms 119:97-105**, and **III John 1:3-4**)!