**Sunday 13th September 2020: Honesty**

**Check in**

* How's this week been for you and how are you today?
* How did you get on putting into practice any application you chose during last week’s discussion?

**Sunday’s message: Honesty**

In his book, *The (Honest) Truth About Dishonesty*, Dan Ariely offers evidence that we're able to believe we're honest even though we lie or cheat by doing so only in little ways. We're therefore able to tell ourselves we're mostly honest—that is, we're only dishonest in ways that we think don't matter.

It is not uncommon for people pull a sicky so don’t go to work especially after the weekend on a Monday. A Reader’s Digest survey found 61% of people had done that.

**Why are looking at Honesty**?

1. ***The Lord delights in honesty*** Proverbs 11:1
2. The lord not only does not like lying he detest dishonesty when it is at the expense of another people.
3. We see this in the Laws God gave Through Moses - Leviticus 19:35-36 **“Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight, or volume. Your scales and weights must be accurate. Your containers for measuring dry materials or liquids must be accurate.”**
4. **Living through Covid is already exhausting** itself as we navigate through it. It is unnecessarily more exhausting and takes so much energy to be someone you are not. Yes, you don’t need to pretend to be perfect, super man or woman with everything all sorted. Being honest means it is okay to have struggles and face up to them. It is so freeing being true to who you are and comfortable not only in your own skin but as you are with others.

**Time to reflect:**

* What dishonesty do you notice around you?
* How do you react to what you notice?
* Do you think people are more dishonest today than when you were younger?
* What about your own dealings with others in the past week – how ‘honest’ have you been?

Moses in Exodus 3 & 4 was honest about himself; he felt he did not have the ability, authority to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God could meet him where he was able to equip him for the task, give him signs and bring others around him like Aaron to help.

Same for you if you find your situation overwhelming, feeling inadequate or during COVID feeling very anxious, be honest before the Lord, tell him. As with Moses God is with you, He is there with you and work with you to go forward in a good way

1Peter 5:7 **Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you**

* How honest are you with yourself in the struggles you face?
* How do you deal with your struggles? (look at 1 Peter 5:7)

**Being Honest and transparent are foundational for authentic love to flourish amongst close friends and in marriage.**

How can we grow in honesty?

If we really want to be an authentic loving person we will need to **put off** **the practise of lying** and **put on the practise of living and telling the truth.**

**If you have been dishonest in words or actions to go forward there may be a need to:**

1. **Confess**
2. **Change behaviour**
3. **Take responsibility for your actions don’t blame other people.**
4. **Invite the Lord to work with you**
5. **Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.** Rom 12:1-2

But remember, the Lord knows you and loves you; He is not trying to trip you up, He simply wants you to become the person you were created to be and reflect His image and likeness more and more.

**Check out and Application**

* Find out about Christians who have spoken out in honesty. E.g. William Wilberforce
* What issues do we need to address and speak honesty about today?
* What do you want us to ask you next week?
* How can we best pray for you?