

Authenticity and Integrity(AI) for Bible Education in Africa

Being Men of Authenticity and Integrity

Authenticity and Integrity-Definitions

1. **Authenticity** is about being true to oneself.

- **2.Integrity** is about a person's steadfast adherence to moral and ethical principles-doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

3. We will use the words *AI* interchangeably.

Five Things About Authenticity and Integrity

- 1.The Antecedent Possessor of Biblical AI
- 2.The Image of Biblical AI in the Consequent
- 3.The Effect of the Fall of Man on AI in the Consequent
- 4.The Restoration of AI in Redeemed Humanity
- 5.The Exemplars of AI in the Bible
- 6.The Application of AI in the Leaders of Bible Colleges/Theological Academies.

The Antecedent Possessor of Biblical AI

- The antecedent of biblical AI is God. The Bible speaks of God as being both
- True(Jeremiah 10:10)
- Righteous(Psalm 25:8).

The Image of Biblical AI in the Consequent

- The consequent is man. God created man in His own image. In creating man in his image (Gen 1:26-27)
- God created man to image his moral attributes: goodness, righteousness (Eccl 7:29) and veracity (conformity with truth) to him (Eph 4:24).

The Effect of the Fall of Man on AI in the Consequent

- The fall interfered with man's original Integrity:
 - Inauthenticity
 - Lying
 - A lack of integrity therefore became a part of man's nature (Eph 4:25)

The Restoration of AI in Redeemed Humanity

Christ reversed the effects of the fall in redeemed man.

- Through his work, Christ destroyed sin (including lying-Eph 4:15,25) and
- Through the Spirit He transform redeemed man into his image (true image of God).
- The Redeemed man is therefore able to be both authentic and integrious. (Psalm 51:6) and put away lying (Eph 4:25).He can be like Christ.

The Exemplars of AI in the Bible

a. Examples in the Old Testament

- David
- Joseph
- Job
- Daniel

b. Examples in the New Testament

- Apostles in General
- Paul in Particular

The Application of AI in the Leaders of Bible Colleges.

A. The first application is to their educated selves. They must be self-disciplined (**2Pet 1:1-3**).

B. The second application is to **their relationship with God**. This calls for the following devotional actions:

Devotional Actions

a. Striving to know and fear of God. (1Tim 4:7).

- Engaging upon a rigorous and devotional assimilation of the word of God (Ps1:1-3, Psalm 119:9-1).
- Meditating upon the word of God- Psalm 1
- Hiding Gods word in our their hearts (Psalm 119:10)
- Obeying the word of God. Not living in violation of scriptural principles.

Devotional Actions

b. Engaging in prayer

- Jesus commanded his disciples to pray to God who sees what is done in secret (Matt 6).and to Watch and pray.

c. Committing to church life (Heb 10:24).

- Theological leaders must maintain a committed, intimate, and dedicated relationship with a local body of believers (Acts 2:42) and not hide in the corridors of seminaries..

The Application of AI in the Leaders of Bible Colleges.

C. The third application relates to the practice of leadership. There are nine points I wish to make in this regard:

- i. Be Emotionally Real with those you lead
- ii. Make Authentic Admission
- iii. Express Authentic Conviction
- iv. Keep confidences (Prov 11:13)
- v. Be honest about your qualifications, skills and where you need to grow.
- vi. Avoid Sexual Misconduct
- vii. Be a good steward of the finances
- viii. Be a faithful scholar

The Application of AI to the Bible Colleges.

7. The Application of AI in the Theological Academies.

- Be founded on the truth.
- Say the truth about your Institution

Final Exhortations Related to AI

1. Let us pursue Authenticity and Integrity. To be AI

- a. We must know God and be like God.
- b. We must strive to be like the ideal man-Christ who was inflexibly a man of integrity-the exact expression of the image of God who is true.

2. A person's integrity manifests itself in the pursuit or neglect of other virtues discussed in 2Pet 1:1-3 related to self, God, others and the world

3. Let us be motivated to pursue integrity because it adorns the gospel of Jesus Christ and commends it to unbelievers, not least because in the world at large, integrity is in short supply.