

Psalm 15 – Who May Dwell in the Tent of God?
03-17-19 PM

David uses the image of dwelling in the Tent of God as a reference to abiding in the presence of God in a very generic manner. He has used it in other places (*For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock* - Psalm 27:5; *Let me dwell in Your tent forever; let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings* - Psalm 61:4). David's point is simple: God will dictate who gets to dwell with Him. We consider this the reward of discipleship. In Psalm 15 David lists 11 characteristics of Godliness that permit a man to walk with God.

1. One who walks in integrity

Integrity – moral soundness

It usually refers to a way of walking

Godly people are not morally ambivalent

Godly people live with firm convictions

2. One who works righteousness

Righteous people do righteous things

1 John 3:7

Righteousness is defined by God

Romans 2:13

3. One who speaks truth in his heart

This person tells themselves the truth

Titus 3:3

A heart that can hear hard truths

4. One who does not slander

A false spoken statement to harm another

Gossip, evil speak, back biting

2 Corinthians 12:20

5. One who does no evil to a neighbor

Kind to unbelievers

Romans 12:17

A good reputation among unbelievers

6. One who does not reproach his friends

To disgrace or shame

By humiliation or by evil conduct

Philippians 2:15

7. One who despises the reprobate

Vile behavior is repulsive

He does not participate in darkness

Ephesians 5:11

8. One who honors and fears the Lord
He is afraid of failing God
His behaviors seeks to please God
Ephesians 5:9-10

9. One who keeps his word even if it hurts
The importance of keeping our oaths
All of our words are oaths
James 5:12

10. One who doesn't loan at interest (but gives)
The command against interest to the poor
The importance of sharing what you have
Ephesians 4:28

11. One who doesn't pervert justice
The importance of declaring the innocent
Refusing to be bought
Deuteronomy 16:19

Deut. 16:20 "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you"

The New Testament Application: why is this person important? Because they are acceptable to God. Why do these qualities matter to us? Because they are things we are meant to see in ourselves and others. Is there a New Covenant application? Consider these parallels to Psalm 15:

Titus 1:6-8 - *If any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,*

1 Timothy 3:8-11 - *Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.....Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.*

2 Peter 1:5-7,10 - *Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love..... for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;*