

John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth [ἀλήθεια (*alētheia*)].

v. 18 “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

v. 19 For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.”

9. What spiritual growth produces is the development of personal integrity from the acquisition of truth. God’s righteousness is absolute and thus never changes.
10. Righteousness is protected by justice which promotes those who acquire and apply it, but disciplines those who do not.
11. The attributes of divine righteousness and divine justice come together as a composite forming divine integrity. Justice is the guardian of Righteousness. When a believer submits to its standards, justice promotes him; when one rejects its standards, justice disciplines him.
12. It is God’s desire that every person use his free will to acquire righteous standards. Justice will honor this process, but in doing so must discipline that person when he violates those standards.
13. Discipline is applied in grace, the policy of God for both the angelic creation and the human race. Those who deviate are warned to give thought to correcting the error by means of continued spiritual growth.
14. This is when human volition goes to school; because of discipline, the believer is challenged to orient and adjust. His decision-making process that led to a poor decision must be adjusted to line up with divine righteousness.
15. Therefore, the personal integrity of that individual has made progress in its adaptation to a divine standard.
16. Personal integrity is therefore developed by the acquisition of divine *alētheia*—truth—under the supervision of “positive volition” toward the soul’s inventory of ideas.



17. When volition lines up with the righteousness of God and the justice of God, then personal integrity is being aggrandized.
18. When this is happening on an ongoing basis, it means the believer is applying the Royal Law from his personal integrity based on the working objects of *alētheia*.
19. John, chapter 8, does not begin at verse 1 but at verse 12 where Jesus begins a discourse before numerous people in the temple's treasury including a number of Jews and some Pharisees.
20. What follows was said to those who had believed in Him:

John 8:31 Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed [πιστεύω (*pisteúō*): faith alone in Christ alone, see v. 30] Him, “If [ἐάν (*eán*): 3d-class condition: maybe yes, maybe no] you continue [μένω (*ménō*): persist] in My word [Λόγος (*Lógos*): Scripture], then you are truly [ἀληθῶς (*alēthōs*): really] disciples [μαθητής (*mathētēs*): believers who grow in grace] of Mine;

v. 32 and you will know [predictive future active indicative of γινώσκω (*ginōskō*): to come to know] the truth [ἀλήθεια (*alētheia*)], and the truth [*alētheia*] will make you free [predictive future active indicative of ἐλευθερώω (*eleutherōō*): from domination by the sin nature].”

21. It is important to note the “If clause” in verse 31. It is a third-class condition which indicates that among those gathered some believed in him in verse 30, however it is made clear that some will “come to know the truth” while some “will not.”
22. Those who commit to following Jesus, adopt what He teaches, and after His ascension, commit to growing in grace in a local church—e.g., James's—are “really students of the Lord.”

23. These are the ones who will grow in grace, move toward spiritual maturity, and acquire personal integrity which they will be able to apply in the hostile environment of first-century Palestine.
24. True disciples continue the pursuit of truth regardless of the world's circumstances. From integrity they will execute the Royal Law.
25. They will apply unconditional love to those in their periphery by placing their faith in the working objects of divine viewpoint.
26. When a believer encounters a situation that challenges him personally, he must learn to submit to his personal integrity.
27. Righteous standards must be consulted. His volition must submit to the guidance of justice in his determination of what standard to apply.
28. That part of soul essence that is the policeman for decision-making is the conscience.
29. The Greek word for "conscience" is **συνείδησις** (*suneidēsis*): "to have knowledge based on an inventory of norms and standards acquired from the study of *'emeth* and *alētheia*."
30. From this advancing inventory of divine absolutes, the believers' conscience is able to certify that his thinking, decisions, and applications line up with the integrity of God.
31. God is absolute perfection; we are flawed by the sin nature on the one hand and ignorance on the other. The sin nature can only be brought under control by the intervention of truth exposing the lie.
32. The believer's conscience is that mental faculty by which one distinguishes between right: the truth, and wrong: the lie.
33. The Conscience urges the individual to do what he recognizes to be right and to restrain him from doing what he recognizes is wrong.

