

Worship Sharing 9/7/2021

Integrity

“Personal integrity is about living an integral life, integrating what is vital into a coherent whole and releasing the rest. It is to be the same in life as we are in words, not promising more than we can accomplish, not conforming to popular opinions we do not believe, not acquiring habits that are unhealthy and that don’t contribute to a just and peaceful world. Living with integrity is to resist violating our own consciences in order to fit in with the crowd or to please someone important. Integrity is wholeness. To live an integral life is to “mind the oneness” as Fox urges. Early Quakers called themselves “Friends of Truth”. The Hebrew word for truth, *amun*, literally means “solid”, “consistent”. To befriend the Truth is to become consistent in word and deed with the truth we receive from the light in our consciences.”

Douglas Gwyn, 2014 “A Sustainable Life”

“Integrity was in a sense the first of the Quaker testimonies. Ever since Friends embraced Jesus’ challenge to “Be Ye Perfect” the basis for our personal living has been laid deeper than mere respectability, deeper than the observance of some moral minimum based on the old law of “Thou Shalt Not”. Friends are called to live with integrity Jesus’ teachings and example in obedience to the Holy Spirit. This way of living causes a transformation in the fabric of our lives. A simplicity of purpose arises to live in the present in the Truth and to order one’s life so as to help bring about the realization of God’s Kingdom of heaven here on earth.”

SEYM Faith and Practice, 2013, page 44

Queries

In what ways do these quotes speak to your condition?

In what ways do you find living the Friends Testimony to Integrity an inspiration?

In what ways do you find living the Friends Testimony to Integrity a challenge?