

Federales Make Poor Christians

The Debilitating Nature of Dishonesty and Pretense

Luke 8:15

A common statement, “It is what it is,” voices a great, self-evident, but commonly ignored truth. This sentiment comes out in the Willie Nelson song, *Pancho and Lefty*. In the song, Mexican soldiers chasing the bandit Pancho excuse their long-term failures with an interesting dismissal, followed by a sarcastic outside evaluation: “All the Federales say, they could’ve had him any day. They only let him slip away, out of kindness I suppose.” Their evasion did not change the truism, “It is what it is.”

Dishonesty and pretense are still very popular. They remain, however, just as wrong as ever. Truth is still truth. It is what it is!

Dishonesty and Pretense

- We know the truth—as long as we have a conscience, we will never be at ease with dishonesty
 - Psalm 51:1-3
 - I Timothy 4:1-2
 - John 3:19-21
- Others commonly figure us out—we wind up creating a lack of respect the opposite of what our dishonesty was seeking
 - Acts 5:1-5
 - John 12:4-8
- God sees the heart—it is what it is
 - Jeremiah 17:10
 - Hebrews 4:12-13
- Sin deceives and destroys (Mk. 4:18-19; Rom. 6:23a)

Honesty and Integrity

- Living with a godly character is—priceless
 - Psalm 51:7-15
 - Philippians 4:4-8
- God has a special love for the righteous
 - Acts 10:34-35
 - Psalm 15
 - Matthew 25:21
- Godly living brings security, strength, and life (I Jn. 1:7; Heb. 5:14; Jn. 6:63)

It is what it is! Our lives are what they are. Pretense is no substitute for truth. It does not bring comfort in life and it ultimately results in spiritual death. A life of truth and integrity brings peace, security, and strength. Easy choice, you would think.