

LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS

Proverbs 3:3-4

God desires our love and faithfulness

I. GOD'S REQUIREMENTS (3)

A. ADMIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS

1. Kindness or *steadfast love* (chesed)
 - a. Definition: A loyal love or loving disposition
 - b. Declaration: See Hosea 6:6 "For I delight in loyalty (chesed) rather than sacrifice ..."
 - c. Demonstrations: See I Sam. 20:14-15 with II Sam 9 and Jer. 38
2. Truth or *faithfulness* (emeth)
 - a. Definition: Reliability in keeping commitments or dependability
 - b. Declaration: Psalm 51:6 "Behold you desire truth (emeth) in the innermost being"
 - c. Demonstrations: See I Sam. 3 and Num. 11:38

B. EMPHATIC COMMAND

- Do not let love and faithfulness leave you
1. Positively: Consider these qualities essential and important
 2. Protectingly: Don't leave them behind

C. ESSENTIAL COMMITMENTS

1. Outwardly: Bind love and faithfulness about your neck
 - Keep them closely guarded - See Prov. 6:20-21
2. Inwardly: Write love and faithfulness on your heart
 - Inscribing something on a tablet - See Jer. 31:33

II. GOOD RESULTS (4)

A. CONSEQUENCES

1. You will find favor
 - Making a good impression on those who see you - Note I Peter 3:16-17
2. You will have good repute
 - Known to have a good reputation when others think of you - See Acts 16:1-2

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B. COMMENDATIONS

1. From God: See Job 1:8 for an example
2. From men: Note Acts 5:12-13 and I Thess. 1:6-7

CONCLUSION:

All of us are familiar with the need for trusting God - Read Prov. 3:5-6

We should also be reminded of our task from God in Prov. 3:3-4

- Do not abandon love (kindness) and faithfulness (truth)

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