

# AI: ARTIFICIAL INTEGRITY

Artificial Obedience (Week Two)  
1 Samuel 15:1-23



## SYNOPSIS

In this second sermon of our Artificial Integrity series, we look at the story of King Saul's disobedience. Through this story, we identify four indicators of artificial integrity: allowing sin to linger, deflecting blame, treating God's commands as mere requests rather than directives, and becoming distant from God. Our response should be wholehearted submission to God's will over mere compliance, emphasizing that true obedience is more vital than empty religious acts.

## QUESTIONS

1. How does the biblical story of King Saul illustrate the concept of Artificial Integrity?

2. What does the statement "Obedience is Better than Sacrifice" mean in the context of genuine faith?

3. What are the warning signs or "phases" that indicate someone might be living with Artificial Integrity?

4. How does the example of the Amalekites relate to contemporary struggles with sin and temptation?

5. How does a person move away from Artificial Integrity and towards genuine faith?

# AI: ARTIFICIAL INTEGRITY

## ANSWER KEY

### Question One Answer:

King Saul, the first king of Israel, serves as a prime example of Artificial Integrity. Despite starting well, his flaws led to partial obedience, self-justification, and a fear of man rather than wholehearted submission to God. When commanded to utterly destroy the Amalekites, Saul spared their king and the best livestock, claiming it was for sacrifice to God. This act demonstrated partial obedience, which the source defines as artificial integrity. His subsequent blame-shifting, treating God's command as a request rather than an absolute order, and ultimately distancing himself from God, all exemplify the stages of living with artificial integrity.

### Question Two Answer:

This profound statement, spoken by the prophet Samuel to Saul, highlights that God values sincere obedience to His commands more than ritualistic acts or outward religious performances. Saul's attempt to justify his partial obedience by claiming he saved the best livestock for sacrifice was rejected because it stemmed from disobedience, not genuine devotion. True integrity involves wholeheartedly following God's will, recognizing His authority, and submitting to His commands, rather than offering partial compliance or substitutes.

### Question Three Answer:

- a. **Allowing Temptations or Sin to Linger:** This involves failing to eradicate known sins or temptations that God has called one to remove from their life, much like Saul's failure to completely destroy the Amalekites.
- b. **Pointing Blame Away From Yourself:** This occurs when individuals deflect responsibility for their disobedience onto circumstances or other people, prioritizing their image over acknowledging their fault, as Saul did by blaming his soldiers.
- c. **Treating Compliance and Obedience Equally:** This is the mistaken belief that simply agreeing to a request (compliance) is the same as submitting to an authoritative command (obedience). Saul thought he "obeyed" God, but he was merely complying on his own terms.
- d. **Distancing Yourself From God:** The ultimate outcome and indicator, where an individual becomes so far removed from a genuine relationship with God that they might refer to Him as "your God" rather than "my God," showing a lack of personal connection and commitment.

### Question Four Answer:

The historical context of the Amalekites, who treacherously attacked the Israelites from behind, symbolizes persistent evils or temptations that need to be completely "cut out" of one's life. God's command to utterly destroy them, while harsh to modern ears, served as a judgment on long-standing wickedness and a call for Israel to live with integrity. For contemporary believers, this translates to the need to decisively remove lingering sins, unhealthy habits (like excessive shopping, impure content, or ungodly friendships), or anything that hinders spiritual growth, rather than allowing them to persist and damage one's faith.

### Question Five Answer

Moving away from Artificial Integrity requires a conscious commitment to the Lord and a willingness to surrender one's life to Jesus. This involves actively eradicating lingering temptations and sins, taking personal responsibility for one's actions rather than blaming others, understanding God's commands as absolute orders to be obeyed wholeheartedly (not just requests to comply with), and actively nurturing a close relationship with God through prayer and church community. It's a path of wholehearted submission to God's will, rooted in grace, that transforms superficial faith into deep, authentic integrity.