

Purity and Integrity

It is great that we have a very good system of training leaders. They know very well now how to have a vision, develop a mission, set up goals and develop strategy and structure of the organization. However, what is missing more and more is Christ like character. How do we protect them and their ministry? This workshop will explore my personal philosophy: the purer you are, the stronger you will be in your life, family, and ministry.

Nikolay (Nick) Nedelchev served as the President of the European Evangelical Alliance (EEA) from 1999 until October 2007. He was born in the small town of Petrich in 1949, very close to the Greek border. His parents were both believers, but Nick did not become a follower of Christ until the age of 21. Shortly after becoming a believer, Nick was discipled by Vassil Angelov, a Bulgarian who graduated from Wheaton College and Dallas Theological Seminary and was supported by College Church in Wheaton. Shortly after Vassil Angelov passed away in 1971, Nick was asked by his church leadership to begin preaching and teaching. In 1973, Nick was ordained in the Baptist Union of Bulgaria and served as a traveling preacher and teacher. He later served as an assistant pastor and as senior pastor of the Baptist Church in Sofia. He also took responsibility for the Baptist Union of Bulgaria. Prior to the fall of Communism in November 1989, Nick secretly spent time discipling, mentoring and training young leaders through small groups and home Bible study/training in partnership with BEE (Biblical Education by Extension) – now ENTRUST. Nick was also one of the founders of the Bulgarian Biblical Academy “Logos” in January 1990 (now United Theological Faculty) and served as Executive Director until 2006. Nick has a vision to take the Gospel throughout Bulgaria, the Balkans and beyond. He is committed to reaching the Muslim world for Christ. Over the last six years, Nick has been traveling frequently to Iraq to train new emerging church leaders.

1. It is a command from God to be pure and holy. (1 Thessalonians 4:1-7)

- A. It is for all who believe in Jesus.
- B. It was in the teaching of Jesus. (Matthew 5:5 – 48)
- C. It was in one of the last prayers of Jesus. (John 17:17)

2. It is a strong testimony for non believers when the children of God live in their everyday life what they believe.

- A. Purity and integrity are a privilege for every individual Christian to follow. (1 Thessalonians 1:5)
- B. People need a model to follow. (1 Thessalonians 1:6)
- C. Believers in Macedonia became an instrument for evangelisation and model to follow. (1 Thessalonians 1:7 – 9)

3. To serve the Lord means living with Him, through Him and for Him that He alone may be glorified in your everyday life and actions. (Romans 11:36)

- A. Believers are warned to be careful about the temptations and the dangers in the last days. (2 Timothy 3:1 – 5)
- B. Selfishness: loving yourself more than anything and anybody else. (2 Timothy 3:2)
- C. There is a way to be a winner, a model for purity and integrity in your everyday life – Paul gives us an example to follow. (Philemon 4:9, 13, 19)

4. We are encouraged to be pure and holy in all the aspects of our life. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

- A. Spiritual purity: protect yourself also from false teachings. (2 Corinthians 4:1 – 5)
- B. Emotional purity: what are your emotions, what do you think about, what do you read and watch?
- C. What about our body (spending time in front of the computer and watching porno materials, reading magazines or watching films)? (1 Corinthians 3:16,17)

5. What about purity and integrity in the financial activities of believers? (Acts 5:1 – 10)

- A. Ananias and Sapphires: what will be the results today?
- B. There are good examples to follow: the widow which Jesus gave as example (Mark 12:41 – 44)
- C. The generous church in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 8:1 – 7)

6. Final encouragement (2 Corinthians 13:11)

Go, Go for perfection! Here is the advice of Ruth Packson, a missionary in China in the 19th century : **The first step of obedience is most difficult, the next are easier; the first step of disobedience is most difficult, the next are as you go on ice skating!**