

EXPANDING THE CIRCLE OF MORE

Answering the Ache for Life to be More

Integrity

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?” **LUKE 9:25**

“I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.” **I CHRONICLES 29:17**

They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are.” **MATTHEW 22:16**

Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”

LUKE 12:1-3

“Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.”

I THESSALONIANS 4:1

“If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” **MATTHEW 5:46-48**

“Integrity”

To live with integrity is to speak, act and decide from a place of integrated wholeness, moral soundness, strength of character and consistency of conduct. Integrity is not something that is just natural to us, it is something we reach for, repent toward, and grow into more and more through a process of maturity and transformation. Without integrity everything we have, everything we achieve, and everything we desire can be lost and forfeited. Integrity is a foundational work of God’s grace and saving intent in our lives. It brings the gaps and the scattered pieces of our lives together into a loving and life-giving unity. Integrity enables us to be the same person in public as we are in private, outside church as we are inside, at work as we are at home. The pathway to an expanded circle of integrity in our lives will travel along four key stops:

1. new awareness
2. focused attention
3. practiced patterns & repetition
4. relationship reinforcement

NEXT WEEKEND: Expanding the Circle of More - “Eternity”