



**Sermon Title:** Begin with the End in Mind

**Date:** 1/1/2023

## 1 Chronicles 29:17.

How important is integrity to you? You maintain your car so that it has the integrity you trust. You trust the integrity of the bridges you drive across.

When it comes to the integrity of a car, or a bridge, even a tiny flaw can be disastrous. In relation to our faith, personal integrity affects our ability to represent Christ to those around us.

**Big Idea:** Cultivate your integrity with the end in mind.

- the end of the day, the year, the end of your life.

What is integrity? Is it honesty, honor, or reliability? - that's part of it, but it is also living a completely undivided life, a sincere focus in our lives on Jesus Christ.

Let's look at the reasons why integrity important

### 1. Our Lord seeks people of integrity.

#### 1 Chronicles 29:17

King David was in the process of collecting all of the materials necessary for building the Temple of God. Even these actions for David and the people prove their faith and motivation. The Bible has many examples of people living life with integrity: We see Pharaoh, who had taken Sarah as a wife, return her to Abraham when it was discovered that Sarah was his wife; Noah is faithful to God in the task he was given to build the Ark, Peter was faithful to Jesus by spreading the faith of Jesus

Integrity is one of the attributes that make us what we are or what we are not. You can never lose your integrity; you can only throw it away. Integrity is vital in our careers, marriages, and how we treat our parents and all aspects of our lives.

Blessings follow living a life with integrity (Isa. 33. 15,16)

## 2. Integrity increases as we yield to Jesus

1 Timothy 6:11-12

This is Paul writing to the young man Timothy. Because he belongs to God, because Jesus Christ is living within him, Paul is able to charge Timothy by telling him to “pursue a Godly life.” That’s our challenge for ourselves today “pursue a Godly life!”

Integrity increases in our care for one another in the face of personal attacks and hurts. Integrity increases our staying power and good character in the face of the ugly realities of this world. Integrity increases in acting like Jesus when pressure mounts, and there is a temptation to act in an ungodly way.

## 3. Integrity can be lost in a moment – Protect yourself!

Psalms 25:20-21

David Knows he is a sinful man in need of being saved. Throughout this whole Psalm, David looks to the Lord for everything: his victory, honor, wisdom, rescue, forgiveness, direction, prosperity, and compassion. David has integrity because he waits on the Lord.

Your integrity is proven or destroyed one situation at a time.

- Words you speak
- The promises you make
- Agreements you make with individuals.

--> People with integrity value and are careful with their word to others.

Begin the year with the end in mind; where do you want to be?

### Practical Steps:

1. Decide to work at your integrity (Colossians 3:23)
2. Put first things first – no wiggle room on the important relationships (Philippians 1:9-10)
3. Guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23) Especially what comes in – you have the ability to choose
4. Keep your word. (Proverbs 12:19)

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Do you think integrity is a quality that most people today have? Explain. What is necessary to increase integrity in our culture?
- Who is a person you know that comes to mind when you hear “integrity”?
- In what ways do you strive to show integrity in your life?
- Describe a time when you encountered a person who lacked integrity. What was the outcome?