

✓ **INTEGRITY—WHEN YOUR BEHAVIOR MATCHES YOUR BELIEFS.**

- Adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty.
- **The state of being whole.**
- Tragic that we live in a world where people are shocked by integrity and not by dishonesty!
- We live in a culture that celebrates talent more than integrity.
 - Talent depreciates over time. So do intellect and appearance. You will eventually lose your strength and your looks. You may even lose your mind. But you don't have to lose your integrity. Integrity is the only thing that doesn't depreciate over time.
- **Why do we reward image over integrity?**
- **Image is easy. Integrity is hard.**

• **A PICTURE OF THE LIFE OF INTEGRITY**

✓ **1 Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary?... 2 He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart 3 and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, 4 who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the Lord, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, 5 who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken. Psalms 15:1-5**

• **BENEFITS OF INTEGRITY**

- ✓ YOU CAN WALK CLOSELY WITH GOD.
- ✓ YOU HAVE A BUILT IN GUIDE.
- ✓ YOU HAVE CONSTANT PEACE IN YOUR HEART.
- ✓ YOU GAIN TRUST, RESPECT, HONOR, AND INFLUENCE.

• **The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one hour. – Japanese Proverb**

- *Bank gives too much money.- My Dad*
- *Call in sick- March Madness*

- **Pay your bills.**
- *Can't lie on taxes and expect favor.*
- *Chipotle*
- **What is convenient often overwhelms what is right.**
- You will never have God's blessing without integrity.
- **Maybe you keep running into problems because your life doesn't have God's blessing on it.**
- **Don't do anything you wouldn't want to read about the next day in the news paper.**

✓ **Reputation is who others think you are.**

✓ **Integrity is who you really are**

- **Which you are you? Really?**
 - **"It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently."**
 - Having integrity means that you live in accordance to your deepest values, you're honest with everyone, and you always keep your word.
 - **The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. Proverbs 10:9**
- ✓ **Integrity Is Not Determined By Circumstances. Circumstances Reveal Integrity.**
- **When you do the right thing God will make it up to you.**
 - **Builder illustration. building your own house.**
 - **Always Believe what a person does, not what he says.**
 - Anything we gain with lack of integrity will never be as good as it could have been.
 - Character is made in the small moments of our lives. Anytime you crack a moral principle, you create a small crack in the foundation of your integrity. Then when times get tough, it becomes harder to act with integrity not easier.

• **JENGA!**

☑ **Proverbs 20:7 (NKJV) *The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.***

- *Some years ago I was invited to a home in our community to talk with a father about his son, who was into drugs. As I sat in his living room that evening, he described this son to me and how upset he was at the circumstances that were going on in their family. He said, "The thing that bothers me the most about his being into drugs is the fact that drugs have made him a liar." Hardly were those words out of his lips when the phone rang and his wife went to answer it. She came back and said to him, "S is on the phone and wants to talk to you." His immediate answer was "Tell him I'm not home." **I ask you, who made that boy a liar? Drugs or his dad?***

- **As a parent I am leading by example.**

☑ **Integrated Life**

- Say lines up with what you do. Private life consistent with public life.
- **Who you are when no one is looking.**
- **If you have to hide it, It's not integrity.**
- Your reputation is one of the most valuable things you have.
- **Space Shuttle Columbia -Feb. 1, 2003, space shuttle Columbia broke up as it returned to Earth, killing the seven astronauts on board.**
- Integrity Is About the Small Things
- **WHAT'S YOUR INTEGRITY WORTH?**
- Job—integrity was everything!
- **...I will not deny my integrity. 6 I will maintain my righteousness and never let go of it; my conscience will not reproach me as long as I live. Job 27:5-6**
- One of the primary rules of navigation is this: What's under the surface should carry more weight than what's above the surface if the ship is going to make it through storms without capsizing. That's exactly how it is with integrity. What's under the surface had better be greater than what you're showing to the world, or you're never going to make it through the storms of life.
- **Integrity is keeping my commitment even if the circumstances when I made the commitment have changed. –David Jeremiah**
- **When you have integrity—nothing else matters!**
- **When you don't have integrity—nothing else matters!**

☑ **What if you don't have integrity?**

- **Apologize**
- **Start doing what's right.**
- Let your **'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. Matt 5:37**
- **Live Holy**
- Jesus was harder on hypocrites than prostitutes, adulterers.
- **Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean...28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Matt 23:25-26, 28**
- **Opposite of integrity is hypocrite: actor in a play.**
- **The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. Proverbs 11:3**
- *I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. 1 Chron 29:17*
- May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you. Ps 25:21
- Samuel said to all Israel, "I have listened to everything you said to me and have set a king over you. 2 Now you have a king as your leader. As for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day. 3 Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the Lord and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I

taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these, I will make it right." 4 "You have not cheated or oppressed us," they replied. "You have not taken anything from anyone's hand." 5 Samuel said to them, "The Lord is witness against you, and also his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." 1 Sam 12:1-5

- "As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, 5 I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' 6 "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. 1 Kings 9:4-10
- Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. 2 Cor 1:12
- Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." Job 2:3
- His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" Job 2:9-10
- "I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me." Abraham Lincoln
- Here's another example: say you get paid \$15 an hour to do your job, but you spend an hour at work goofing off. You've essentially stolen \$15 from your employer. Of course surfing the web doesn't feel anything like stealing, but it's really no different than pocketing a \$15 item while shopping and not paying for it.
- "The integrity of the upright guides them." Pr 11:3 NIV

- Job 31:6 (NKJV) Let me be weighed on honest scales, That God may know my integrity.
- Psalms 25:21 (NKJV) Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You.
- ***Psalms 26:1 (NKJV) Vindicate me, O Lord, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip.***
- Danger Zone #1:
Your giftedness has the potential to take you further than your character can sustain you.