

Building Integrity

- **Day One. Fear the Lord**

Read Job 2:3; 1 Corinthians 7:1

In your own words, explain how reverence for God motivates you to live a holy life. How well do you know what God expects of you? How often during the day are you consciously aware of God's presence? How often do you think about giving an account for your life?

Pray. Ask God to help you live a more reverent life: understanding God's ways, aware of his presence, and anticipating your "evaluation."

- **Day Two. Respect yourself**

Read Psalm 15:2; Luke 11:39; Psalm 139: 23-24

How well do you know your own heart? How committed are you to "speak truth" to yourself? Are you the same on the inside and the outside? Which character qualities are strong and which need work? What are you doing to build your personal integrity deep inside?

Pray. Ask God to search you, to help you know yourself. Ask him to work in you to develop your personal integrity.

- **Day Three. Value others**

Read Matthew 22:16; Daniel 6:4; Luke 19:17; Titus 2:6

If someone were to follow you around, how certain would they be of your consistent upright behavior? Can you see how behavioral integrity builds trust? Where in your relationships could you build more trust with more integrity?

Pray. Ask God to show you how others are looking to you as a trustworthy person and ask him to help you live the consistent life that will earn others trust.

New Life Lessons
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Pastor Dave Vasquez

Integrity

Beneath the Surface #3

What is integrity?

Latin: *integritas* | integer, integral, integrate, entirely

Integrity: Sound moral character that is whole or undivided, internally consistent and integrated into all aspects of life

Contrast: Hypocrisy, duplicity

Why is integrity important?

Integrity pleases God

1Chronicles 29:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent...

Integrity is better than riches

Proverbs 28:6 (ESV) ⁶ Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

Integrity gives guidance

Proverbs 11:3 (NIV) ³ The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

Integrity brings security

Proverbs 10:9 (NIV) ⁹ The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.

Integrity strengthens relationships

Luke 16:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

How is integrity developed?

1. Fear the Lord

Job 2:3 (NIV) ³ 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...” Proverbs 8:13

2Corinthians 7:1 (NIV) ¹ Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Know God's Law

Romans 7:7 (NIV) ⁷ I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.”

Expect of God's presence

Proverbs 15:3 (KJV) ³ The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. Jeremiah 23:24

Colossians 3:23 (NIV) ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...

Understand sin's consequences

James 1:14-15 (NIV) ¹⁴ ...but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Galatians 6:7-8

Acknowledge your accountability

Jeremiah 17:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ I, the Lord, search the heart. I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Luke 8:17; Matthew 12:36

2. Respect yourself

Be honest with yourself

Psalms 15:2 (ESV) ² He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart. Psalm 139:23-24

Be consistent inside and out

Luke 11:39 (NIV) ³⁹ Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.”

Resolve not to sin

Job 27:5 (NIV) ⁵ I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity. Psalm 17:3; Daniel 1:8

Let God develop your character

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control....

Philippians 4:8 (NIV) ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

1Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) ³³ Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

3. Value others

Show them consistent positive behavior

Matthew 22:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know you are a man of integrity...” Daniel 6:4

Allow them to place confidence in you

Psalms 78:72 (NIV) ⁷² And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. Nehemiah 13:13; Exodus 18:21; Matthew 25:23

Set the example

Titus 2:7 (NIV) ⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity... Proverbs 20:7