

Integrity

What is it?

“Wholeness; entireness; unbroken state”

“The entire, unimpaired state of anything, particularly of the mind; moral soundness or purity; incorruptness; uprightness; honesty.”

(From Noah Webster Dictionary 1828)

“firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values (incorruptibility)”

“an unimpaired condition (soundness)”

“the quality or state of being complete or undivided (completeness)”

(From Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Why is it important?

List some things that may result (and have resulted) from the lack of moral integrity in our personal lives, families, church, community and culture.

Example: people who say one thing yet practice another!

Why does it matter?

Where does integrity come from?

Hint: Read Job 2:3 and Matthew 22:16

How does one obtain integrity?

See Matthew 16:24-26; 22:37-39; John 1:12; 3:16; Romans 10:9-10

Once received, we must “practice” in order to maintain and grow in integrity. (see Psalm 101:3-4 (key), Psalm 119:11, 105; Matthew 7:24; Luke 6:46-49, 8:21; James 1:22)

How might someone lose their integrity?

See 2 Samuel chapter 2 describes King David, a man after God’s own heart, committing adultery and murder. He indeed lost his integrity for a time.

- What set King David up for failure?
- What were the consequences of his failed integrity?
- What is the way to recover when we fail in our integrity? (hint: 1 John 1:9)

For further study, here are some Bible examples of people with integrity:

- Noah (Genesis 6:8-9)
- Abraham (Genesis 12:1-4)
- Joseph (Genesis 50:15-21)
- Ruth (Ruth 1:15-16)
- Daniel (Daniel 1:8-9)
- Jesus, our Gold Standard (Luke 4:1-12)

Question:

- How have people in your life who lack(ed) integrity affect(ed) your life and the lives of others?
- Poor integrity repeats itself in families and communities. So, how can you and will you keep from repeating the problems and be a person of integrity?
- Explain why a life of integrity speaks a lot louder than mere words!
- Describe a church, group or community led by people of integrity verses those without integrity.