

"In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word was
with God, and the
Word was God."
~John 1:1

The Lord's Flock
Growth
DIGEST
PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES



“ Becoming a Person of Integrity “

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Word of God:

1Kings 9:1-9

After Solomon finished building the house of The Lord, the house of the king, and everything else that he wanted to do, The Lord appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him in Gibeon. The Lord said to him: I have heard the prayer of petition which you offered in my presence, I. Have consecrated this house which you have built and I set my name there forever; my eyes and my heart shall be there always. As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did wholeheartedly and uprightly, doing all that I have commanded you keeping my statutes and my ordinances, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father: There shall never be wanting someone from your line on the throne of Israel. But if ever you and your descendants turn from following me, fail to keep my commandments and statutes which I set before you, and proceed to serve other gods and bow down to them, I will cut off Israel from the land I gave the and repudiate the house I have consecrated for my name. Israel shall become a proverb and a byword among nations, and this house shall become a heap of ruins. Every passerby shall gasp in horror and ask, "Why has the Lord done such things to this land to this house?" And the answer will come: "Because they abandoned The Lord, their God, who brought their ancestors out of the land of Egypt, and they embraced other gods, bowing down to them and serving them. That is why the Lord has brought upon them all this evil."

INTEGRITY

katapatan;matapat;mabutingasal;dangal;
may karangalan

Similar to a thousand peso bill that is crumpled and thrown on the floor, the value remains no matter what the item looks like on the outside, no matter how scarred, bruised or beaten. That is integrity.

Integrity means deciding to integrate my hearts' value into my daily action.

As we seek to clothe ourselves with the characteristics of Jesus, we must look long and hard at this particular one.

When Jesus was defending himself from religious leaders in John 10:25, He said, "I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify to me"

A person of integrity is validated by his works and deeds.

If we are pure in heart, we can be pure in action.

Integrity is making my daily actions line up with my heart's values. I value the benefits of integrity.

Although all computers look almost the same on the outside, some cost a lot more than others. What is the difference? The difference is what's inside. The power of the guts of the computer dictates the price. Integrity is like a

computer, what is on the inside is what counts.

Integrity provides me with protection and less fear.

Psalm 25:21 *“Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; I wait for you, O Lord.”*

Mark Twain once said, *“Speaking honestly is better. It takes a lot of stress out of our lives. If you tell the truth, you don’t have to remember anything. But if you don’t tell the truth, you have to remember what you said.”*

Integrity provides me with security and greater confidence.

Prov 10:9 *“Whoever walks honestly walks securely, but one whose ways are crooked will fare badly.”*

I can be confident that if I do what is right, I will prosper.

If you walk with integrity, you don’t have to worry about having a shaky foundation for you what to do. It provides a firm foundation. Integrity provides me with guidance and better decision

Prov 11:3 *“The honesty of the upright guides them; the faithless are ruined by their duplicity.”*

In a society without morals where absolutely anything goes, when people can choose what is right and wrong without having standards, how do you decide which way to go? Eventually you’ll get caught in your duplicity. It will come back to bite you.

If you live with integrity, then your decisions are easier to make. Your integrity guides you.

Integrity provides me with hope for future rewards.

In Job 4:6, Job rested his hope in his integrity so that, someday, when he stands before God, he would not be ashamed of how he lived

and what God will say to him. He hoped that he will be commended and not rebuked for his lifestyle and the testimony that he had when he was alive.

How to become people of integrity:

1. Ask God to test your heart

It is similar to an ECG that tests the health of the heart to help find potential problems and to help diagnose future problems. ECG detects the condition of the heart.

It is this difficult testing of the heart that God needs to work on us in a spiritual sense. He needs to come in and find out the condition of our heart and fix it before major problems take over.

1 Chronicles 29:17 *“I know, my God, that you put hearts to the test and that you take pleasure in integrity.”*

God is pleased with integrity. He examines the heart to see if a person is full of integrity. What you believe in your heart will determine how you will act when faced a tempting situation.

You will only be characterized by integrity if you prove to demonstrate it; which means, having the right things in your heart, not being greedy, for instance.

Because of the fact that integrity begins in our heart, we must ask God to examine our hearts and show us what is questionable.

Psalm 26:2 *“Examine me, Lord, and test me; search my heart and mind.”*

One way that God shows us what is questionable and what is the characteristic of integrity is through the Bible.

2. Study to know what is true

Throughout the Bible, we will find the words honesty, purity, truth, upright and complete all translated from the same

words meaning integrity. They are all synonymous. Therefore, if we are going to live lives of integrity, we must know the aspects of integrity; which comes from spending time in the Bible with God.

2 Timothy 2:15 *“Be eager to present yourself as acceptable to God, a workman who causes no disgrace, imparting the word of truth without deviation.”*

If we take time to study the Bible and apply it in our lives, then we can live lives of integrity because the Bible is the only standard for living that is true and unchanging.

The Bible has the answers to life's tough questions: the power to overcome difficult times and the practical truths that can make us successful in life.

You will fail to have stability in your life if you don't spend time studying the Bible. You will be like a boat tossed about in every storm that you face.

Ephesians 4:14 *“...so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by the waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming.”*

Living a Christian life without reading the Bible is like fixing a car without reading the instructions. It just doesn't work.

St. Jerome said that *“...ignorance of the bible is ignorance of Christ.”*

3. Apply God's Word into your daily life and work

Psalms 15:1-2 *“Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy mountain? Whoever wals without blame, doing what is right, speaking the truth from the heart.”*

Walking in integrity means integrating all of God's Words into our daily activities. It means that I become a doer of the Word. Education without application is abortion.

The fact is that God's Word has very clear instructions for all of us. If we do what God says and apply it in our lives, we will become people of integrity. We will have hope, guidance, security and protection.

If we do not live what the Bible says, we become shallow and empty. We must live up to who we say we are. If we call ourselves

Christians, we must live as Christ did and in accordance with the Word of God. When we say we are Christians and we live in contrary to the Bible, this is going to disappoint some people. It gives God a bad name and it damages our chances of sharing God's love with them.

A person of integrity must be the same on the inside as he is on the outside. That requires the application of the Word of God.

4. Remain faithful in spite of circumstances

Have you ever gone through that time in your life when it feels like the whole world is caving in? A time that seems you will not be able to handle another day of calamity? I have a word for you today: Don't ever give up! Do whatever you can to remain faithful. Job was a man who went through an awful lot yet remained faithful.

God commended Job for his character. He was blameless and upright, feared God and shunned evil. His character was good. The fact that he kept his character in tact despite the best effort of Satan makes him a man of integrity.

Job 2:3, *“The Lord said to the Satan, ‘Have you noticed my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him, blameless and upright, fearing God and avoiding evil. He still holds fast to his innocence although you incited me against him to ruin him for nothing.’”*

If it seems like you are ready to give up on God, take time today to pray and ask God to renew your strength. Find a friend, a brother

or sister in the community and ask them to pray with you.

Remain faithful to God and He will remain faithful to you.

5. Refuse to be persuaded by others

Mark 12:14, *“They came and said to [Jesus], ‘Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you are not concerned with anyone’s opinion. You do not regard a person’s status but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth...’”*

The friends of Job kept on convincing him that he sinned against God and that he did not get right with God.

Job 2:9-10 *“Then [Job’s] wife said to him, ‘Are you still holding to your innocence? Curse God and die!’ But he said to her, ‘You speak as foolish women do. We accept good things from God; should we not accept evil?’”*

Never let others dictate what we do. They must never come between us and what is right before God. To become a person of integrity, we must do what is right and refuse to be persuaded by others.

Have you ever heard the phrase, *“Everybody else is doing it”*? This is one of those lame rationalizations that we use to justify our actions.

To be a person of integrity means that you are willing to go against the crowd if the crowd is wrong. It means standing alone, if necessary, to do what is right. It means peer pressure is no pressure for you. You’re sure that it’s not what other people think of you that matters. It is what God thinks of you that you care about. Whether it is today or at the end of your life, sooner or later, you will agree with me that the only thing that truly counts is what God is going to think and say about you.

Job 8:20, *“Behold, God will not cast away the upright; neither will he take the hand of the wicked.”*

The fact is that integrity has a much greater value than riches or fame.

Proverbs 19:1,28:6: *“Better to be poor and walk in integrity than rich and crooked in one’s ways.”*

Psalms 101:2, *“Study the way of integrity; when will you come to me? I act with integrity of heart within my household.”*

Integrity means making sure that what we say and do, no matter what the circumstances are, are consistent with each other. It means that our actions are aligned with our heart and that our heart is attuned to God.

CONCLUSION: Integrity means deciding to integrate my heart’s value into my daily actions.

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