



**Summer 2025**

**Character Counts**

**Sermon Title:** Faith in the Lion's Den

**To be used with Session 6:** Integrity

**The Point:** Be the same Christ-centered person at all times.

**Scripture:** Daniel 6:1-28

**Connection with the Study:** To complement the Bible study “Integrity,” this sermon focuses on Daniel refusing to compromise his values, beliefs, and practices and subsequently being thrown into the lion’s den. The call of integrity is not just for vocational ministers or church leaders; it is for everyone. It is a difficult challenge to maintain your values whether we are in private or in a large group. Daniel’s example serves as a reminder that the decision to guard our integrity needs to be made before we are put into a challenging situation. It is something that we commit to and then when the challenges occur, we can maintain our integrity.

**Introduction:** In early 2025, news broke of a high-profile CEO who stepped down after it was revealed he had secretly violated company ethics policies for years. While publicly promoting transparency and accountability, behind closed doors he made decisions that betrayed the very values he claimed to uphold. The fallout was immediate—stock prices dropped, employees felt betrayed, and public trust vanished overnight.

This story isn’t just about one executive—it’s a mirror for our culture. In a world where image often matters more than integrity, we’re reminded how easy it is to live one way in public and another in private. But God calls us to something higher.

Daniel, faced with pressure from political leaders and the threat of death, didn’t adjust his faith to fit the moment. He didn’t pray in secret to protect his reputation or quietly compromise to save his position. He stayed consistent—devoted to God whether he was in the palace or the pit.

His story reminds us that integrity is being the same Christ-centered person at all times, even when it costs us. In a world full of compromise, will we be people who stand firm in truth?

### **1. Integrity means consistency in devotion. (Dan. 6:10)**

Daniel was a man of unwavering devotion. Daniel remained steadfast in his devotion to the Lord even when King Darius signed a decree outlawing prayer to anyone but himself. Daniel did not waver. He continued to pray just as he always had. His integrity was not dependent on convenience or public opinion, but rather, his faith was his foundation. It was the driving principle of his life.

Many Christians today struggle with consistency. It's easy to be faithful at church where we are surrounded by dozens of people who share the same values and principles that we do but we are quick to compromise in the workplace, at school, or among unbelieving friends. But integrity means being the same Christ-centered person at all times. Integrity means praying, reading the Word of God, and obeying Him whether people applaud us or oppose us. We must remain consistent. Daniel's example challenges us. Do we maintain our devotion when pressure is applied? Are we as committed in private as we claim to be in public? True integrity begins with an unshakable commitment to God, no matter the circumstances.

## **2. Integrity requires courage under pressure. (Dan. 6:16)**

Daniel's refusal to compromise put him in line for some serious consequences. He knew that his obedience to God could cost him his life, yet he did not flinch. His courage under pressure was not rooted in arrogance but in his unwavering trust in God.

The world constantly pressures us to compromise — whether in our moral values, our speech, or our silence in the face of sin. It takes courage to stand for Christ when others bow to cultural trends. Will we honor Christ in our schools, workplaces, and communities, even if it means losing favor or facing ridicule?

Daniel's example reminds us that integrity is not just about believing the right things; it's about standing firm in those beliefs when it matters most. We must be willing to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). The true test of integrity is not in times of ease but in moments of trial. Will we be bold in our faith, trusting that God is in control?

## **3. Integrity trusts in God's justice (Dan. 6:22)**

After spending the night surrounded by hungry lions, Daniel emerged unharmed. God's justice prevailed and the very enemies who sought to destroy him were cast into the lion's den themselves. Daniel's integrity was vindicated by the Lord.

We live in a world where the wicked often seem to prosper and the righteous suffer. But Daniel's story reminds us that God sees everything. He will ultimately uphold righteousness and judge injustice in His perfect timing. Our job is not to manipulate outcomes but to remain faithful, knowing that God rewards integrity in His way and in His time.

When we face opposition for standing firm in our faith, take heart, God is in control. He may not always deliver us from trouble, but He will always be with us through the trouble. The righteous may suffer for a time, but in the end, God's justice will prevail.

**Conclusion:** Integrity is not just about what we do when others are watching — it's about being the same Christ-centered person at all times. Daniel's life challenges us to remain consistent in devotion, courageous under pressure, and confident in God's justice.

As believers, we must ask ourselves: Are we faithful when no one is looking? Do we stand for Christ when it's hard? Do we trust that God sees and rewards righteousness?

The world needs men and women of integrity. We need people who will reflect Christ in every circumstance. Will you be one of them? Let us determine today to live with unwavering integrity, knowing that God honors those who honor Him (1 Sam. 2:30).

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