

Anchored in Integrity

Individuals and institutions may at times fail the integrity test, but Jesus never does.

When you're living a Jesus-like life of integrity, your behavior matches what you say that you believe, your private life is consistent with your public life.

Eternal One, who is invited to stay in Your dwelling? Who is granted passage to Your holy mountain? Here is the answer: The one who lives with integrity, does what is right, and speaks honestly with truth from the heart. The one who doesn't speak evil against others or wrong his neighbor, or slander his friends. Psalm 15:1-3 (VOICE)

He that walks in integrity walks securely, but he that perverts his ways shall be broken. Proverbs 10:9 (JUB)

Hypocrisy is the opposite of integrity.

"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!" Matthew 23:25 (NLT)

The lack of integrity leads to an inability to trust.

Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; see for yourself whether I've done anything wrong—then guide me on the road to eternal life. Psalm 139:23-24 (MSG)

To determine the degree of integrity in your life, ask yourself these questions:

What do I not want others to know?

What am I most defensive about?

What do I criticize in others?

Integrity involves continually developing a Christ-like character that can survive when crises inevitably come.

Ways to develop Godly integrity . . .

1. Be ruthlessly honest with yourself.
2. Seek wise counsel.
3. Commit to honor God rather than constantly trying to please people.

Talk About It

1. Who was a person that you respected when you were young? What were some reasons for that respect?
2. When do you tend to feel most insecure?
3. How would you describe your identity as a follower of Jesus?
4. What are some ways that your behavior doesn't always match up with your beliefs and how has that difference affected you and others?
5. How honest would you say you normally are? How would you like that to change?
6. What are some ways that you have spoken or posted in unkind ways toward others? How would you like that to change?
7. How de-sensitized do you think you've become to the moral failures of leaders in our culture? What do you think of that?
8. What are the emotions you experience when you learn about the failure of integrity of a Christian leader?
9. What are some ways that you think failures of integrity have impacted the church?
10. What do you think of the idea that the lack of integrity leads to an inability to trust? What might be some examples of that?
11. If you genuinely wish to live a life of integrity, how do you think these three questions relate to that and who would you answer these questions?
What do I not want others to know?
What am I most defensive about?
What do I criticize in others?
12. What is one specific way in which you will live with greater integrity this week?