

“Integrity”

(Personal Soul Surgery)

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

1 Tim 4:16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

1 Cor 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

James 1:22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Integrity deals with possessing sound moral principles. Some synonyms follow: uprightness, honesty, sincerity, moral soundness, constancy, candor, trustworthiness, loyalty, merit, faithfulness, worth, virtue and many others. Without integrity we are all hot air & lose our effectiveness for our Lord. Examples in Proverbs:

Pro 2:7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

Pro 10:9 He who walks in integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will be found out.

Pro 11:3 The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the falseness of the treacherous will destroy them.

Pro 19:1 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.

Pro 20:7 A righteous man who walks in his integrity-- How blessed are his sons after him.

"QUALITIES THAT BUILD INTEGRITY"

I. Being True To Your Word.

James 5:12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and your no, no; so that you may not fall under judgment.

Example is: General Douglas MacArthur. "I will return" — to Corregidor Island.

When you say you'll be "some where" at "a certain time" to do "a certain thing, a certain way". Be there on time, in place, doing what you said you'd do in the "very way" you said you would. Do what you SAY.

Luke 16:10-13 "He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. (11) "If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you? (12) "And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? (13) "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

II. Being Honest In All Of Your Dealings.

1 Cor 5:11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler--not even to eat with such a one.

1 Cor 6:10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

A man lies about his job performance and keeps his job while another tells the truth & loses his job. A student cheats and gets an "A" while others don't & get low grades. A salesman lies about his product but makes a sale while others make no sales telling the truth. What do we make of it? Honesty sometimes has slower paydays but **"The wages of sin is Death!"**

III. Being Financially Responsible.

Eph 4:28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.

Titus 2:10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

If you do not use your (God's) money wisely a credibility gap will develop! Pay your bills. Tear up ALL credit cards NOW. Do you own your credit cards or do they own you?

IV. Being Conscientious & Diligent In The Fulfillment Of Your Responsibilities.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Know what they are and excel. If you are in neutral or in a rut or in a decline could it be you?

V. Being Discreet When Dealing With Those Of The Opposite Sex.

Eph 5:3-5 But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; (4) and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. (5) For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Titus 2:1-8 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. (2) Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. (3) Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, (4) that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored. (6) Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; (7) in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, (8) sound in speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

Extreme caution is a must. Exercise wisdom & self-control. You are vulnerable. Don't overestimate your ability to resist. You, eventually, will **NOT** resist.