

BIBLE STUDY #12

Integrity

Integrity can be defined as a firm adherence to a code of moral values. People of integrity are incorruptible, honorable, and honest.

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being best), how would you rate your own integrity? Explain.

Integrity seems to be lost in our society today. Most believe that honest people will lose out and make less money, lower grades, and climb the ladder of success more slowly, if at all.

The following passages list some characteristics of integrity and some characteristics opposite of integrity. Read each passage and tell what aspect of integrity, or its opposite, is mentioned.

Deuteronomy 25:15-16

Proverbs 26:24

Matthew 5:37

Proverbs 11:3

For your ministry to succeed, you will have to act with absolute integrity. This will manifest itself in two distinct areas: integrity with God and integrity with others.

"The three most important ingredients in Christian work are integrity, integrity, integrity." – Charles Colson

INTEGRITY WITH GOD

Before we can have integrity with the people around us, we must have integrity with God. If you are honest, open, and available to God, this integrity will automatically produce integrity in everything else.

Read **1 Samuel 2:35**. What was God looking for in this verse?

In determining what it means to have integrity before God, we must look at several matters.

INTEGRITY BEFORE GOD MEANS PUTTING GOD AHEAD OF ANYTHING ELSE

While this may seem obvious, it is not that simple. On the chart below, place a mark where you stand in your actions whether you live to please other people or to please God.

People _____ God

Explain the placement of your mark.

You can either be faithful to God or faithful to other people. If your ministry is primarily to bring glory to yourself by seeking the approval and praise of men, your integrity is lacking.

Read **Matthew 6:33**. What are we told to always seek first?

This is not to imply you should not care about people. On the contrary, if God is first in your life, ministry will always be the result, and people will be touched. It is intended to say we must simply keep our priorities in line and, above all, remain faithful in integrity with God.

INTEGRITY WITH GOD MEANS BEING TOTALLY HONEST AND OPEN WITH HIM ABOUT YOUR LIFE

Many Christian leaders attempt to lead while holding back an area of their life from God's control. For example, there are many leaders who expect great things, and great blessing, while living a disobedient life in the area of finances, sex, school work, family relationships, or any number of other things that they refuse turn over to God's control.

Is there any area of your life you have not given completely to God? Explain.

Read **Psalms 69:5**. What should your response be to this verse?

INTEGRITY WITH GOD MEANS HONORING GOD

Honoring God is something we should do in EVERY area of our lives. Our worship should be a highlight of the way in which we honor God.

Read **Isaiah 29:13**. In this verse, what was the problem with the hearts of the people?

What was wrong with their worship?

Never underestimate your need for integrity in your relationship with God. One of the most awful things you could ever endure is being in a ministry assignment and knowing that God is not there with you because of your lack of integrity with Him. In this example, you would find yourself being forced to "make" things happen and "look" spiritual. Stay faithful to God. Your ministry success, as far as God is concerned, will depend on it.

"There is one thing we cannot imitate; we cannot imitate being full of the Holy Spirit." – Oswald Chambers

INTEGRITY WITH OTHERS

Your integrity with God will be noticed by others and will place you in a position to lead others. In ministry, this leadership must be developed with the highest of integrity.

Read **Psalms 78:72**. What does this verse say about David's leadership?

INTEGRITY WITH OTHERS WILL SHOW FORTH IN HONESTY

Honesty can be found in a number of areas of life. On a 10-point scale (10 being best), rate your honesty as it relates to each area below.

Parents/Family

Teachers (school work)

Peers (using, manipulating other people)

Dating Relationships

If any answer above is less than a 10, explain.

"Always tell the truth. Then you do not have to worry about what you said last." – Robert Cook

Being genuine and showing concern for others is required for successful ministry. People will see through an insincere person very quickly.

Read **1 Peter 1:22**. In what context is sincerity used in this verse?

Read **Romans 12:9**. Does this text seem to indicate that sincerity is optional? Explain.

Read **Philippians 2:19-22**. This passage describes Timothy's character. Could these same words be said of your character? Explain.

INTEGRITY WITH OTHERS WILL SHOW FORTH IN DOING WHATEVER IS NEEDED TO HELP OTHERS

This is a difficult level of maturity to attain. Many Christians are willing to serve and minister as long as it does not inconvenience them. This selfishness is a big issue when it comes to ministry.

Consider the following ministries. Which would motivate you more?

Toilet cleaning at the nursing home

Or

A ministry at your school impacting hundreds and putting you in the limelight

Explain your answer.

Read **Colossians 3:23**. How does this verse imply we should do any ministry God assigns?

Some are motivated in ministry by how little time it takes relative to results and personal visibility. Others recognize that God creates all kinds of ministry. For us to maintain our integrity, we must be willing to do ANYTHING asked of us by God, even toilet cleaning!

In summary, you must minister with integrity. You must be honest with God and with those God has entrusted to your ministry care. Without integrity there is no trust. If there is no trust, there will be no foundation for any ministry success.

Read **Proverbs 10:9**. What does this verse say about a person of integrity?

"Christianity is all about relationships with God and with others." – David Watson

Overall, what do you think/feel God is saying to you through this lesson?

ASSIGNMENTS

- _____ 1. **Scripture Memory: Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)**, "The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out."
- _____ 2. **Bible Study: #12**
- _____ 3. **Quiet Time:** Have at least five quiet times this week.
- _____ 4. **Sermon Notes:** Take sermon notes.
- _____ 5. **Other:** Either by phone, or in person, meet and pray with your mentor this week.