

Let's Be Clear
The Enduring Quality of Integrity
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Integrity in ministry, business, marriage, family, and relationships is carried out because it's an honorable way to live before God and a watching world.

Proverbs 22:1 *Choose a good reputation over great riches; being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.*

A person with integrity is not divided. Duplicity or pretending is called hypocrisy. People with integrity have nothing to hide and nothing to fear.

“Integrity is keeping my commitment even if the circumstances when I made the commitment have changed.” David Jeremiah

Daniel 6:4-5 *Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. 5 So they concluded, “Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion.*

- **When no one is looking, how do you live your life?**
- **The reason to live with integrity:** God notices the simple characteristic of honesty.

Deuteronomy 25:13-16 *You must use accurate scales when you weigh out merchandise, 14 and you must use full and honest measures. 15 Yes, always use honest weights and measures, so that you may enjoy a long life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. 16 All who cheat with dishonest weights and measures are detestable to the Lord your God.*

Proverbs 11:1-5 *Lord detests the use of dishonest scales, but he delights in accurate weights. 2 Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. 3 Honesty guides good people; dishonesty destroys treacherous people. 4 Riches won't help on the day of judgment, but right living can save you from death. 5 The godly are directed by honesty; the wicked fall beneath their load of sin.*

The pursuit of integrity in life involves loving and living for God.

- **Consistency:** Are you the same person no matter who you are with?
- **Choices:** Do you make the best decisions for others when another choice would benefit you?
- **Credit:** Are you quick to recognize others for their efforts and contributions?
- **Courteous:** Do you treat people with dignity and respect?

Nehemiah 7:1-2 (Contemporary English Version) *"After the wall had been rebuilt and the gates hung, then the temple guards, the singers, and the other Levites were assigned their work. 2 I put my brother Hanani in charge of Jerusalem, along with Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, because Hananiah could be trusted, and he respected God more than most people did."*

How is a life of integrity built? One brick at a time, one wise decision at a time, one apology at a time, and one desire to be truthful at a time.

- (1) Is your life, business, work habits, morals, words, and decisions grounded in integrity, or are you tipping the scales unjustly?
- (2) Make things right today if you know things are wrong. The biblical word is repent. Turn around. Change directions and go the other way.

"It's our business to see that we do right; God will see that we come out right." Donald Gray Barnhouse

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and need Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. Amen.