

Making Disciples: *As You Go*
Lesson Twelve: Character Fundamentals
What is Integrity and Why it is Important?

I. Introduction:

This week we are going to continue along these lines and talk about integrity and how important that is to being a successful mentor to those we meet. Integrity is extremely important, in big and little things. Having integrity is more than a character trait, it is a picture container around our traits which impact all of our relationships. First, what is integrity?

II. Examples of Integrity

A. Consider Abimelech.

➤ Genesis 20

Here we see a man of integrity in Abimelech, a Philistine and Abraham fearing men, not God. Abraham caused Sarah to tell a half-truth if indeed it had any truth to it at all about being a sister for his own protection, and Abimelech being honest in thought and deed and being blessed by God because of a prayer from Abraham.

Q. What behaviors beyond lying would you expect from those who lack integrity?

B. Consider David!

➤ 1 Kings 9:1-9

In this passage, we see God calling David a man of integrity before Solomon. He makes a promise to Solomon with a condition of the king's heart and righteousness. We see from Acts 13:22 being a man of integrity does not require perfection.

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' Acts 13:22
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Q. What made David a "man after God's own heart", even in sin?

Q. From our understanding of the Kings who followed David, what was God's reaction to this promise?

C. Consider Job

The third man that I would like us to consider today is Job. Job was declared a man of integrity by God, even to Satan.

3 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason."
Job 2:3

Job's wife challenged Job to give up his integrity.

9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." 10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. Job 2:9-10

Q. What was Job's wife telling him?

III. Now, we have these examples of Integrity, how might we define integrity?

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines Integrity as

1: firm _____ to a code of especially moral or artistic values: _____

2: an unimpaired condition: _____

3: the quality or state of being complete or undivided: _____

Sometimes we see in the Bible as the word Upright.

Integrity is a matter of being authentic in beliefs, desires, will, and behaviors.

I would like to propose a working definition of integrity which says:

- I will be _____. (I do what I say and say what I will do.)
- I will _____ energy into _____ all the _____.
- I will do right when it is _____ and when it is _____.
- When I do _____, I will seek _____ and _____ my actions to match my _____.

Then I will have integrity.

Q. Why is having integrity important as we disciple others?

IV. Conclusion:

Integrity may be the greatest asset you have when you are discipling someone else; however, lack of integrity will certainly destroy your testimony to others. Students, but also family, friends and enemies alike will not be swayed by a person who does not show integrity in their life.

V. Homework

Memory Verse - Proverbs 2:6-8

⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
⁸ guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.