

"Integrity"

"I know, my God, that you test the heart, and are pleased with integrity."
- 1 Chronicles 29:17

Integrity: Deciding to integrate my heart's values into my daily actions.

Thoughts on Integrity:

1. God places a high value on integrity:

"Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, than he who is crooked though he be rich."
- Proverbs 28:6

2. Integrity is one of the things that makes God smile.

"I know, my God, that you test the heart, and are pleased with integrity."
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3. Integrity is important to God, but it's important to us, too.

- Integrity has the power to build trust.
- Trust is what fuels a relationship.

Integrity Provides:

- Protection — less fear

"May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you."
- Psalm 25:21

- Security — greater confidence

"The man of integrity walks securely."
- Proverbs 10:9

- Guidance — better decisions

"The integrity of the upright guides them."
- Proverbs 11:3

How Can I Practice Integrity in My Life?

1. Speak Honestly.

"Speak the truth in a spirit of love."
- Ephesians 4:15

"It is a wonderful heritage to have an honest father."
- Proverbs 20:7

2. Confess Regularly.

To keep your marriage brimming with love in the loving cup,
When you're wrong admit it, and when you're right shut up.

"Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other."
- James 5:16

One area of integrity that is often overlooked is Restitution —

- **If I've wronged someone, I need to go to them.**

"So if you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God."
- Matthew 5:23,24

3. Live Consistently.

I am to be consistent in my ...

A. Public life as well as my private life.

- A good definition of success:

"When those closest to me love and respect me most."

B. Words and Deeds.

"Knowing the correct password — saying 'Master, Master,' for instance — isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience — doing what the Father wills. I can see it now — at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.'"
- Matthew 7:21-23, The Message

4. Commit Boldly.

- Commit that I will fulfill my promises.

"I publicly proclaim bold promises; I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner so that no one will know what I mean."
- Isaiah 45:19

- Commit that what I say with my mouth, I follow up with my life.

"I will walk in my house in the integrity of my heart."
- Psalm 101:2

"If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
- Romans 10:9

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