



PREVIEW

In this lesson, we will dive into the vital concept of integrity—living a life of honesty, consistency, and uprightness. We will explore the biblical foundations of integrity and discover how cultivating this virtue can impact our relationships, character, and spiritual journey.

PRAISE

Let's take a moment to reflect on the goodness of God and be grateful for the fact that God is the same as He was in the beginning of creation. His love is unwavering. His mercy is available for us today. His truth remains the same. These are things to celebrate! What are some good things God has done in your life?

PARABLE

Have you ever seen a potter crafting a vase? It's amazing to watch. The potter's skilled hands shape clay on a wheel, spinning it into the proper form. His fingers mold contours in the clay, creating a vase into the image he desires. Just as the potter shapes the clay with precision, God molds our lives with integrity as the guiding principle. Just as a vase stands strong when its form is true, we too stand strong when our lives reflect the integrity God desires.

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PARABLE *(continued)*

Unfortunately, sometimes a vase, or any type of vessel made of clay, becomes marred or cracked. In ancient times, unscrupulous merchants who wanted to sell defective vessels would take some wax, color it to match the pottery, and fill in the cracks. On the display shelf the vessel looked perfect. But if the person who purchased the pottery were to put in a place where it was exposed to the hot Mediterranean sun, the wax would melt, the flaws would be revealed, and they would know they had been duped. Honest merchants began marking the pottery on their shelves with a sign that in their language meant "sincere"; their pottery was "without wax."

The Hebrew word translated "integrity" in Proverbs 10:9 (NKJV) means "the condition of being without blemish, completeness, sincerity, uprightness." The New Testament uses phrases like "unfeigned" or "without hypocrisy" or "with a pure heart."

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PRESENT

Integrity is more than just an external display of honesty—it's an inward commitment to truth that reflects in every aspect of our lives. It's the foundation upon which trust is built, relationships flourish, and character is shaped. The Bible emphasizes the significance of integrity throughout its pages. Read Proverbs 10:9 (NKJV). This verse reminds us that integrity provides security—a solid ground on which to stand—while deceit leads to exposure and instability.

Consider the story of Joseph in Genesis. He faced the allure of sin when Potiphar's wife propositioned him, yet Joseph's unwavering commitment to integrity kept him from sinning against God. How did he respond? Read Genesis 39:9. This verse highlights the connection between integrity and our devotion to God. In the New Testament, we find a similar emphasis. Read Matthew 5:37. This straightforward instruction highlights the importance of honesty and integrity in our words and actions.

PRACTICE

Practicing integrity requires us to consistently align our lives with God's truth. Start by examining your heart and actions. Are there areas where your words and deeds don't align? Confess those things to God, asking for His forgiveness and strength to change. It's crucial that we build habits of honesty, both in our speech and our actions. Commit to being reliable and trustworthy, even in small matters. Remember that integrity is not just about avoiding lies—it's also about keeping promises, honoring commitments, and being transparent with others.

PRAY

Dear God, we thank You for being the source of all truth and integrity. Guide us as we strive to live lives marked by honesty, consistency, and uprightness. Help us align our hearts with Your truth and reflect Your character in all we do. Empower us to be people of integrity, both in our words and actions. When there are crucial conversations that need to happen, help us to speak with truth and love. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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PLUS

Here are five tips for walking with integrity:

1. **Consistency in values:** Align your actions with your core values. Let your beliefs guide your decisions, ensuring harmony between what you say and what you do.
2. **Honesty in communication:** Speak truthfully and transparently. Avoid exaggeration or deception, fostering trust in your interactions with others.
3. **Accountability:** Take responsibility for your actions, admitting mistakes and learning from them. Accountability demonstrates humility and a commitment to growth.
4. **Promises and commitments:** Honor your commitments and promises, whether big or small. Reliability builds a reputation of trustworthiness.
5. **Self-reflection:** Regularly assess your motives and actions. Identify areas where integrity might be compromised, and take steps to realign yourself with truth and ethical behavior.