

What Really Matters: Integrity

"People who do not believe are living all around you ... Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God..."

Integrity = deciding to integrate my heart's values into my daily actions.

The Real Value of Integrity

Protection - **less fear**

"May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in You."

Security - **greater confidence**

"The man of integrity walks securely."

Guidance - **better decisions**

Integrity gives an internal guidance system so we can make better decisions.

"The integrity of the upright guides them."

How to Live With Integrity

1. Always speak the truth.

Proverbs 12:22 "The Lord hates liars, but is pleased with those who keep their word."

Ephesians 4:15 "Let our lives lovingly express the truth in all things – speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly."

Proverbs 4:24 "Don't talk out of both sides of your mouth; avoid careless banter, white lies, and gossip."

2. I have to stand for what's right.

2 Corinthians 13:8 "Our responsibility is never to oppose the truth, but to stand for the truth at all times."

James 4:17 "When a person knows the right thing to do, but doesn't do it, then he is sinning."

3. You stay clean.

Philippians 2:15b "You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of crooked and perverse people. Let your lives shine brightly before them."

- Choose the right kind of friends.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."

- Value integrity more than image.

Proverbs 28:6 "It's better to be a poor person who has integrity, than to be rich and double dealing."

- Watch what you watch.

Proverbs 15:14 "The wise person is hungry for the truth but the fool feeds on trash."

2 Peter 1:3 "God's divine power gives us everything we need for life and godliness. This power was given to us through knowing Jesus who called us by His own glory and integrity."

Matthew 5:13, 14, 16 "You are the salt of the earth ... you are the light of the world ... Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."