

*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*

 – Hebrews 6:19

**6/7/24**

**Arrive & Eat Breakfast**

**Welcome**

**Prayer**

**Section 1 – Character - Chapter 1 – Integrity**

**Closing Prayer**

**Section 1 – Character**

**Chapter 1 – Integrity**

*Let integrity and uprightness preserve me.* – Psalm 25:21

Definitions of Integrity:

1. Having courage to do the right thing.

2. Doing what is right, even when no one else is looking…Remembering God is always looking!

3. Living uprightly for Christ, day in and day out.

4. Living by Godly standards, principles, conscience, and convictions, 100% of the time.

Integrity – Integer = Whole, Complete, No Part Missing, Without Blemish, Sound, Upright

Integrity must affect the whole part (the essence) of who you are—your character:

* Thoughts - Actions
* Attitudes - Marriage
* Motives - Money

Compromise in just one area could be your downfall. A small crack could eventually weaken the integrity of your foundation, bringing down your name and reputation.

* Downfall doesn’t happen overnight…it happens gradually over time.
* Small compromises eventually grow into major catastrophes.
	+ Proverbs 11:3 *- The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity*.
	+ Proverbs 13:6 - *Righteousness guards the person of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.*

People of Integrity have a “Good Name” and “Good Reputation.”

Proverbs 22:1 – *A good name is more desirable than great riches, to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.*

Ecclesiastes 7:1 - *A good name is better than fine perfume,*

Luke 2:52 – *Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.*

1 Timothy 3:7 – *He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.*

Be a…

Promise Keeper

* Man of your word. In the Old Days: Someone would look another person in the eyes, give them a promise, and a handshake. “A man’s word was his bond.”
	+ Is this still valid today? Why or Why Not?
* 1 Samuel 3:19 – *“Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and He let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground.”*
* Ephesians 5:37 - *let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.* James 5:12*…* *Otherwise you will be condemned.*
* “If you say it, you must do it.”
	+ What are some examples of promises you have made but maybe haven’t fulfilled? Why didn’t you fulfill them? Examples:
		- Promise to pray for someone
		- Promise to call someone
		- Promise to be home when you say you will
		- Promise to be at an appointment on time
		- Promise to be at your child’s game/performance…
		- Promise that something you sell will last
* A Promise Keeper, can’t be bought, bribed, compromised, or manipulated.
	+ Many will encourage you to abandon your integrity, but will you?
		- Job 2:9 - *His wife said to him, “Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!”*
		- Job 27:5 - *I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity.*
* A Promise Keeper, many times, must keep his promises even if it means it comes at a great cost (financial or otherwise) or inconvenience.
* A Promise Keeper exemplifies God who is the first Promise Keeper.

Truth Teller

* Someone who is real, authentic, genuine, and transparent.
* Not a liar. Not communicating with the intent to deceive.
	+ Colossians 3:9 - *Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices*
	+ Ephesians 4:15, 25 *- speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ…* *each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one another.*
* “Promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth…”
	+ Facts not fiction
	+ Whole not partial
	+ Focused not embellished/exaggerated with the intent to impress
		- NO resume padding.
		- NO reporting of elevated numbers.
* Able to admit faults without shirking responsibility or blaming others to “save face.”
* Honesty with God, Spouse, Children, and Others is essential.

Financial Manager

* Tactician – Shrewd Budgeter & Planner, Timely Bill Payer
	+ Living within your means
	+ Not being “in Debt” if you can help it.
		- Proverbs 22:7 *– The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.*
	+ Not being Negligent in Paying Your Debts
		- Romans 13:8 - *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.*
* Tither – In keeping with Scripture:
	+ Malachi 3:10
	+ Leviticus 27:30-34
	+ Numbers 18:25-28
	+ Deuteronomy 14:22-24
	+ 2 Chronicles 31:5-6
* Taxpayer – Also, in keeping with Scripture:
	+ Matthew 22:15-22
	+ Romans 13:5-8
* Trustee, not a Thief
	+ Not…
		- Taking from the workplace
		- Fudging on reimbursements & company benefits
		- Leaving work early or providing less work than you should
	+ Daniel 6:4 - *the administrators and satraps sought a charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they could find no charge or corruption, because he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him.*
	+ Colossians 3:22 - *Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.*
	+ Proverbs 28:6 - *Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.*

Integrity is a Choice:

Psalm 101:2 - *I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh, when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house;*

Integrity is Seen by God & Others:

Job 31:4 - *Does he not see my ways and count my every step?*

Titus 2:7-8 - *In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness* *and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.*

Matthew 5:16 - *Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

See Also: 1 Timothy 4:12; 5:10; 1 Peter 5:3

If we are men of integrity, remember what the Lord will do:

Psalm 41:12 *- Because of my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever.*

Proverbs 2:7 - *he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,*

Proverbs 10:9 - *Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.*

Proverbs 20:7 *- The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!*