

# Character Qualities: Integrity

Luke 12:1-3

Our next lesson in our character qualities series ties in with our recent studies on leadership and is also timely in that most of us are either already or about to start working on our taxes. Today we will study about Integrity.

Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of the multitude had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first [of all,] "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup>But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. <sup>3</sup>Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops." Luke 12:1-3

## Intro: Define Character and Integrity.

What Is Character? (<http://billgothard.com/bill/teaching/characterqualities/>)

Character is the inward motivation to do what is right according to the highest standards of behavior in every situation.

Character consists of the stable and distinctive qualities built into an individual's life that determine his or her responses, regardless of the circumstances.

Character is the wise response to the pressure of a difficult situation and what we do when we think that no one is watching. It is the predictor of good behavior.

**Integrity:** The quality of consistency and purity in every area of life; internally consistent.

The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.

The opposite of hypocrisy.

How would you rate your own personal integrity? \_\_\_\_\_

Your children? \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Biblical passages related to integrity

Mt 12:36 "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.

Ec 12:14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

Ro 2:16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Eph 6:5-6 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; <sup>6</sup>not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Re 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

## Integrity in Nave's:

Ac 24:16 "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience [both] before God and before men.

Ro 13:1-7 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; <sup>4</sup>for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil. <sup>5</sup>Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. <sup>6</sup>For because of this you also pay taxes, for [rulers] are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

Heb 13:18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.

1Pe 2:12-14 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe [them,] glorify God in the day of visitation. <sup>13</sup>Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, <sup>14</sup>or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

1Pe 3:16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

## Other verses:

2Co 1:12\* For our proud confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

Titus 2:6-14 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; <sup>7</sup>in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, [with] purity in doctrine, dignified, <sup>8</sup>sound [in] speech which is beyond reproach, **in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.** <sup>9</sup>[Urge] bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, <sup>10</sup>**not pilfering**, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect. <sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup>instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to **live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age**, <sup>13</sup>looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; <sup>14</sup>who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

James 3:8-12 - <sup>8</sup>But no one can tame the tongue; *it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.* <sup>9</sup>With it we bless *our* Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; <sup>10</sup>**from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing.** My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. <sup>11</sup>Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Neither *can* salt water produce fresh.

## II. Why Have Integrity?

What are some reasons we should have integrity? God says to.

## III. How Can Integrity Impact Different Areas of Life?

Finances? W

Is there possibly a cost of integrity in this area of life? \_\_\_\_\_

Verse?

Work? W

Is there possibly a cost of integrity in this area of life? \_\_\_\_\_

Verse?

Church? W

Is there possibly a cost of integrity in this area of life? \_\_\_\_\_

Verse?

Faith? W

Is there possibly a cost of integrity in this area of life? \_\_\_\_\_

Verse?

Leadership? W

Whenever you survey the most important qualities of a leader, three characteristics bubble to the top: Integrity (#1 by a factor of more than two), caring for people, and vision.

Is there possibly a cost of integrity in this area of life? \_\_\_\_\_

Verse?

## IV. How Can You Raise Children With Integrity?

What are your ideas to accomplish this? E

Our children's lack of integrity is likely a reflection of our own. Is that true?

What about when our children see us breaking the law?

## Conclusion: How do you increase your integrity?

Ask: Are you a person of integrity?

How can you add integrity to your character and life?

Accountability – Chuck Swindoll

Our integrity is directly related to our walk with God. As we get closer to God, our integrity will increase. God wants us to have integrity. This is a great week to have integrity.