

INTEGRITY PART I

June 4-5, 2022

INTRODUCTION

- Integrity and trustworthiness are everything. Your life and ministry live and die on it.
- I Corinthians 4:1-2, "...servants of Christ...it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."
- Integrity is about wholeness inside and out.
- When I have integrity, my words and my deeds match.

I. STAYING REAL EVERYDAY

- What you stand for in public you must live in private.
- Character and integrity reflect how a person leads themselves.
- Integrity establishes the ground rules for resolving tensions.
- Psalm 15:1-4 NKJV, "Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle?...He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart...he *who* swears to his own hurt and does not change."
- My whole heart must be kept consciously available to His Spirit's correction.
- Proverbs 4:23, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out it spring the issues of life."
- Your character will never rise beyond the level of your obedience to the Holy Spirit's dealings with the heart.

II. BEING HONEST WITH GOD

- Joined to God's objective Word must be a more subjective integrity. Intersection of promise and problem.
- The "promise" is in God's divinely trustworthy, objective revelation in His Word, given by His Holy Spirit.

- The "problem" is my fallible, subjective perception of God's will.
- Psalms 139:23, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my (thoughts) anxieties."
- Honesty requires that I have a willingness to permit His Spirit to refine my responsiveness to His will in my life.
- Hebrews 4:13, "All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

III. THE MATTERS OF MINISTRY

- Matters of accuracy.
- Matters of privilege.
- Matters of power.
- Matters of perceived prestige.
- Matters of moral purity.
- Character transcends obedience to rules.

IV. INTEGRITY CHECKS

- Integrity checks:
 - Values (which determine convictions)
 - Temptation (which tests conviction)
 - Restitution (which tests honesty)
- Integrity Test:
 - Consistency: Are you the same person no matter who you are with? Yes or No
 - Choices: Do you make decisions that are best for others when another choice would benefit you? Yes or No.
 - Credit: Are you quick to recognize others for their efforts and contributions to your success? Yes or No.

CLOSE

- Integrity is a result of self-discipline, inner trust, and a decision to be relentlessly honest in all situations.