



SERIES: THE KEYS TO A BLESSED LIFE

The Blessing of Cultivating Integrity – Pastor Alton Trimble

Sunday, September 16, 2018

1 SAMUEL 16:7 *“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (NIV)*

MATTHEW 5:8 *“God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.” (NLT)*

WHAT IS INTEGRITY?

Three words that define what integrity is:

- 1) WHOLENESS
- 2) AUTHENTICITY
- 3) UNMIXED MOTIVATION

PROVERBS 11:20 *The Lord hates people with twisted hearts, but he delights in those who have integrity.” (NLT)*

THREE OF THE MANY BLESSINGS BROUGHT BY INTEGRITY

1. PERSONAL CONFIDENCE

PROVERBS 10:9 *“People with integrity have a firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.” (NLT)*

PROVERBS 11:3 *“The integrity of the honest keeps them on track.” (Mes)*

2. A LASTING LEGACY

PROVERBS 20:7 *“A righteous person lives on the basis of his integrity. Blessed are his children after he is gone.” (GW)*

JOB 8:5-7 (Bildad) *“If you pray to God and seek the favor of the Almighty, if you are pure and live with complete integrity, God will rise up and restore your happy home. And though you started with little, you will end with much.” (NLT)*

3. REWARDS IN ETERNITY

MATTHEW 25:21 (God will say) *“Well done! You are a good and trusted servant! Because you were faithful with small things, I’ll now put you in charge of much greater things. Come and share your Master’s happiness!” (NCV)*

So, HOW, do I develop integrity?

PSALM 15:1-5 “Lord, who may stay in your sanctuary and live on your holy mountain? The one who WALKS WITH INTEGRITY - he speaks the truth from his heart. He refuses to slander others with his tongue, won’t listen to gossip, and will not cast a slur on his fellowman... (instead) he honors those who fear the Lord, and keeps his promises even when it hurts. He lends his money freely without charging interest and cannot be bribed by money. Whoever does THESE THINGS will NEVER be shaken!” (NIV/GW/TEV)

SIX WAYS TO BECOME A PERSON OF INTEGRITY

You become a person of integrity...

1. BY KEEPING YOUR PROMISES (verbal integrity)

PROVERBS 25:14 “People who promise things they never give are like clouds and wind that bring no rain.” (TEV)

PSALM 15:4 “(God blesses) the one who walks with integrity ...who keeps his promises even when it hurts.”

2. BY PAYING YOUR BILLS (financial integrity)

PSALM 37:21 “The wicked man borrows and never pays back ...” (TEV)

3. BY REFUSING TO GOSSIP (relational integrity)

PROVERBS 11:13 “A gossip can't be trusted with a secret, but someone of integrity won't violate a confidence.” (Mes)

PROVERBS 10:18 “Anyone who spreads gossip is a fool” (TEV)

4. BY FAITHFULLY TITHING (spiritual integrity)

MALACHI 3:8-10 “Is it right for a person to cheat God? Of course not! Yet you are robbing me, says the Lord. 'How?' you ask. By withholding your full tithe and offerings... Bring to me the full amount of your tithe to my House, put me to the test and you'll see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing on you that you won't have enough room to receive it all!” (TEV)

5. BY DOING MY BEST AT WORK (business integrity)

PROVERBS 18:9 “Slack habits and sloppy work are as bad as vandalism!” (Mes)

PROVERBS 18:9 *“A lazy employee is as destructive as a saboteur.”* (LB)

EPHESIANS. 6:6 *“Don't work hard only when your master is watching and then shirk when he isn't looking! Work hard and with gladness ALL THE TIME, as though working for Christ, doing the will of God with all your heart.”* (LB)

COLOSSIANS 3:22 *“And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best!”*
(Mes)

COLOSSIANS 3:23 *“Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.”* (NLT)

6. BY BEING REAL WITH OTHERS (interpersonal)

2 CORINTHIANS 4:2 *“We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open...”* (Mes)

PROVERBS 119:9 *“How can I keep my way pure? By living according to your Word.”*
(NIV)