

## A CHRISTIAN'S CORE VALUES #2 TO MAINTAIN MY INTEGRITY

Take just a moment and write on a piece of paper 5 words that people who know you would use to describe you. Would integrity, in some form, be one of them?

Always do right - this will gratify some and astonish the rest.  
*More funny Mark Twain quotes*

Albert Camus said, "Integrity has no need of rules."

In the dictionary, the word integrity means 1) an unimpaired condition, i.e., soundness, wholeness 2) firm adherence to a code of moral values, i.e., incorruptible, honor, 3) the quality or state of being complete or undivided, i.e., completeness. Synonyms of integrity are honesty and unity.

What does the Bible say about integrity?

### **1. Integrity is treating people fairly and honestly.**

Leviticus 19:35<sup>35</sup> "Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity.<sup>36</sup> Use honest scales and honest weights... Deut 25: 15, Proverbs 16:11-13

Luke 6<sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

### **2. Integrity is keeping your word.**

Matt. 5<sup>36</sup> And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.<sup>37</sup> Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Jam. 5<sup>12</sup> Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

The Bible is filled with examples of men who entered into **covenants**. A covenant was for the purpose of **each party keeping their word**.

How trusted or valued is your word? To what extent will you go to keep it?

It is far better to be trusted and respected than it is to be liked. There is always room for those who can be relied upon to delivery the goods when they say they will.

Napoleon Hill (1883-1970) *American speaker and motivational writer.*

### **3. Integrity will protect you.**

Psa. 25 <sup>21</sup> May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you.

Pro. 2 <sup>7</sup> He holds victory in store for the upright, **he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,** <sup>8</sup> for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

**III. Daniel** explains why he is spared from the lions den.

Daniel 6 <sup>21</sup> Daniel answered, “O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.” NIV

### **4. Integrity is priceless.**

Proverbs 28: Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

Pro. 22:1 A good name is more desirable than great riches;

## 5. The Lord will test and judge your integrity.

Psa. 7<sup>8</sup> let the Lord judge the peoples. Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High.

## 6. It may be difficult to maintain your integrity.

Job 2:<sup>3</sup> Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is **blameless and upright**, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And **he still maintains his integrity**, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

<sup>9</sup> His wife said to him, “Are you **still holding on to your integrity**? Curse God and die!”

It might amaze you to discover that David spoke of integrity more than anyone in scripture. The Lord instructed Solomon to “.. **walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness**, as David your father did...” 1Ki. 9.

Knowing of David’s murder and adultery how do we explain this? David was not perfect but he was passionate about defending the name of the Lord. He committed atrocious sin but repented and continued his pursuit of God. **It was David’s submission to God’s authority and correction that adds to his integrity.**

## 7. Integrity will be rewarded.

1Ki. 9<sup>4</sup> “As for you, **if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness**, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws,<sup>5</sup> **I will establish your royal throne** over Israel forever,

III.

## **WOMEN BUILD AUTO PARTS COMPANY ON INTEGRITY**

In 1978, two women (**Marie Bothe and Edith Gripton**) began their own business—**Wetherill Associates, Inc**—in an industry **not typically associated with female entrepreneurs: automobile parts. Wetherill rebuilds and distributes replacement car parts.**

They had **the idea to develop a business based on ethical practices**; they wanted their company to be a living example of the maxim: "Right actions lead to right results. Wrong action leads to wrong results."

As part of their training, employees were taught to apply ethical standards to all matters of their job performance. For example, **sales people were told**

- \* never to pressure customers,**
- \*never to discredit competitors,**
- \*never to use negative sales tactics, and**
- \*under no conditions were they to lie.**

Almost three decades later, Wetherill Associates is still going strong. Sales are in the hundreds of millions; profits are in the tens of millions, and the company is debt-free.

You will reap what you sow.

*Steve May, Sermonnotes.com*

III.

In the spring of **2006, an administrative assistant at Coca Cola's Atlanta headquarters left work with several classified materials hidden in her purse.** These materials included recipes for upcoming products, future promotions, and a beverage sample for a product not yet on the market.

**With the help of two other employees, the secretary sent a letter to Pepsi—Coke's oldest and biggest competitor—offering to sell the secrets. It was a chance for Pepsi to seriously damage its competitor for a relatively low price.**

Immediately upon receiving the letter, however, Pepsi officials contacted Coca Cola's headquarters, which then called the FBI. The Feds conducted a sting operation that netted **three conspirators** two months later, when they agreed to part with the **secrets for \$1.5 million.**

"We were just doing what any responsible company would do," said Pepsi spokesperson Dave DeCecco. "Despite the fierce competition in this industry, it should also be fair."

*Sam O'Neal, St. Charles, Illinois; source: Kathleen Kingsbury, "You Can't Beat the Real Thing," Time magazine (7-17-06), p. 10-11*

**Our integrity is revealed as Jesus Christ lives out his life through us**

- This is demonstrated by our **purity and love.**
- This is demonstrated by our **endurance and good character.**
- This is demonstrated by **how we react under pressure.**
- True character is shown more by our reactions than our actions.