

## THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRITY IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER

*Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup>In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness <sup>8</sup>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. Titus 2:6-8*

**Illustration:** A few years ago several people died from poisoning by contaminated capsules.. The medicine company had a motto, "operate with honesty and integrity" de Tylenol, Several weeks before the Tylenol incident, The president for Johnson and Johnson sent a memo to all the presidents of divisions of the company asking if they still believed in that statement. All presidents answered affirmative. When the Tylenol crisis happened the president of the company ordered all the medicine to be taken out of the market knowing that it was a decision of one hundred million dollars. When reporters asked him how he could so easily and quickly decide about something so important, he said: "I practiced what we agreed long ago in our mission statement" is always easy to do the right thing when you know what your principles are.

Introduction: The dictionary defines integrity as: "The total or broad range of skills possessed by an individual and the ability of human beings to decide on their own behavior." Is to be who you are where ever you are, with who you are with and under any circumstance. Currently it is very difficult to find people you can trust; there are many who proclaim their own goodness, but in reality their actions show the opposite.

Interactive questions:

- How hard is it for you to decide what is right or what you want?
- Do you easily recognize when you are wrong or somebody has to convince you?

### 1. INTEGRITY BEGINS WITH SMALL THINGS

- a. Each day of our lives we have to make all kinds of decisions. Some benefit us, we hurt others, some will be made between what we do and what we should do.
- b. Integrity manifests starting with small things, making decisions according to what we really are and not what they appear to be. Examples:
  - *When you go late at work and you punch your card like if you were on time.*
  - *Switch the Price tags at the store so you can pay less.*
  - *When you say that you read the 3 verses of the daily Bible Reading plan and you didn't.*
  - *Take leftover material from the company you work for.*
  - *Cheating in school tests.*
  - *Talking about others behind their backs.*
  - *Taking advantage of your clients when you own your business.*
- c. When we control the little things in integrity when the most difficult and tempting situations arise, decisions will prevail based on integrity and honesty.  
Example: José was determined not to fail his master and did not sleep with his wife.

### 2. BENEFITS OF INTEGRITY

- a. **Integrity makes us trustable:** Those around us will trust us when we don't hide our mistakes but we recognize them. People don't really mind that we are not perfect and make mistakes, they care that we show what we really are.
- b. **Integrity makes us live secure:** with no fear of somebody to caught us in something bad.

**c. Integrity makes us dwell in the presence of God** and prevents us from slipping. Psalm 15:1-5,

### 3. HOW TO BE A PERSON THAT LIVES IN INTEGRITY?

- a. **Commit to be honest and reliable:** Do not wait for the critical time comes to decide. Set priorities in life and determine which values will prevail; determine who and how to respond to any situation of conflict.
- b. **Decide ahead of time that you are priceless:** For many it has been very easy to contraband a load of drugs for a large sum of money without considering the consequences of being imprisoned for many years. Protect yourself today deciding not to sell your integrity: nor by power, revenge, pride or money, regardless of the amount.
- c. **Start with the small things:** We all have little foxes to be drawn; for some it will be on the sexual life, other finance for others marriage; family relations, work, tithing, etc..

**Conclusión:** todos tenemos áreas en las que necesitamos trabajar en la integridad, si hemos fallado y lo reconocemos la solución es arrepentirnos y apartarnos de ese camino. Hagamos juntos la siguiente oración:

*"I pledge to be a person of character integrity, I will treat others as I would like to be treated, I will live according to the principles of integrity regardless of the circumstances of life. Father we are not perfect and have done so many mistakes, and maybe we have so much to be ashamed of, but we stand with integrity and admit those things and say - **"that was me"**. Now we are not ashamed because we hide behind yours in forgiveness, in your mercy and grace that restores us. We ask today that you Lord, by your Holy Spirit, help us to maintain a sensible conscience.*

#### **Auto examen de integridad:**

1. How good do I relate with people that not really benefit us?
2. Am I real with other people?
3. Do I pretend to be somebody else depending on who I'm with?
4. Am I the same in front of people or when I'm alone?
5. Do I recognize my bad behavior easily?
6. Do I prioritize other people's problems before my wanting?
7. Am I firm when taking decisions or do circumstances change my values?
8. Do I make tough right decisions even if you know it will affect you?
9. When I need to clarify something with somebody do I talk to them or about them?
10. Am I accountable at least with one person with wht I think, say and do?

#### **Announcements:**

- **Vacation Bible School: June 16 to 21**
- **Fire Works pre-sale: June at the church's lobby.**
- **Retreat "3 days of power": July 11-13**