

Integrity

"Character Counts" - Week Two

I. Defining Integrity: Integrity is Wholeness Job 1:1 -

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God, and turning away from evil.

II. The Fruit of Integrity: Prosperity

Prov. 14:11 -

The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish.

Prov. 10:9 -

Whoever walks in integrity walks securely.

Prov. 11:11 -

By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted.

II. The Fruit of Integrity: Prosperity

Prov. 20:7 -

The righteous who jwalks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!

"As we integrate and become whole, each time we take a step, there is no dysfunction that makes us end up two steps back. Integration brings the greatest amount of fulfillment for everyone concerned, and the greatest wake wherever we go."

~Henry Cloud, Integrity

A. Sweat the Small Stuff

B. Listen to Your Conscience

I Timothy 1:18-19 -

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith.

- "Here is a list of things that the voice might tell us if we are integrated enough to listen:
- This doesn't feel quite right.
- I really don't feel comfortable doing this or agreeing to this.
- This is not what I really want.
- I don't like what I am agreeing to, or part of me doesn't.
- This violates an important value.
- I am going to resent this later....

- "Here is a list of things that the voice might tell us if we are integrated enough to listen:
- I am going to resent this for a long time.
- I resent this now.
- I wish this were not happening.
- This feels the same as the last time."
- ~Henry Cloud, Integrity

C. Pursue Self-Understanding

Psalm 139:23-24 -

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

III. The Path to Integrity D. Be Held Accountable

Proverbs 27:17 -

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

"Who is pushing you to grow? Who is supporting you to grow? Who is pushing you past the level at which you already are? Where is the encouragement coming from? The number one reason for lack of growth in people's lives, I have observed, is the absence of joining forces outside themselves who push them to grow. Instead, they keep telling themselves that they will somehow, by willpower or commitment, make themselves grow. That never works. But if they enlist a...

coach, join a group, get a counselor, a community of growth, or some outside push, then the growth begins to happen...These people do not enable us to remain the same by rescuing us, believing our excuses, explaining away our faults, or anything like that. They caringly walk alongside us, but hold us to the path at the same time."

~Henry Cloud, Integrity

III. The Path to Integrity E. Keep Your Word

Psalm 15:4 -

He swears to his own hurt and does not change.

F. Make the Hard Call

Daniel 6:3-10 -

Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for...

F. Make the Hard Call

Daniel 6:3-10 -

complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God." Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live...

F. Make the Hard Call

Daniel 6:3-10 -

forever! All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the...

F. Make the Hard Call

Daniel 6:3-10 -

injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper...

F. Make the Hard Call

Daniel 6:3-10 -

chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

G. Be Transparent

Galatians 2:11-13 -

When Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.