



## Integrity – A Forgotten Virtue

**Focus** Integrity is a forgotten virtue in our society, but the Bible clearly says that we should strive to live our lives with integrity.

**Open** What prompted you to pursue your current line of work?

**Read** Integrity is becoming a forgotten virtue in our society. Integrity can be defined as: *“when your behavior matches your beliefs”*—when what is displayed on the outside is the same as what exists on the inside. When we live with integrity, it serves as our guide, allows us to live in peace, protects us from sin, helps us gain others’ trust and respect and enables us to walk closely with God. Also, if we live lives of integrity, God’s Word says we will never be shaken (Psalm 15).

The opposite of integrity is not “dishonesty;” it’s “hypocrisy.” As shown in Matthew 23:25–28, Jesus came down the hardest on hypocrites—those lacking integrity in their lives.

- Talk**
1. What is the most powerful example of integrity you’ve ever witnessed?
  2. What is the difference between reputation and integrity? How are they related, if at all? Which one is God most concerned about?
  3. Proverbs 11:3 says, *“the integrity of the upright guides them.”* How does integrity guide a person? How does it protect us?

4. How would you define hypocrisy? Why is hypocrisy such a serious offense before God?
5. When we're not walking in integrity, we're not living to please God but are consciously or subconsciously living for something else. What might we possibly be living for when we're not choosing to operate with integrity?

**Live**

1. Who determines whether or not someone is a person of integrity?
2. Read the picture of integrity given in Psalm 15. As you read the chapter, what area(s) did you realize you needed to work on to become a person of greater integrity?

**Pray**

Talk to God about any area(s) of your life in which you have realized you are not operating with integrity. Repent for choosing something else over pleasing Him. Ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to be your guide and for your heart to respond to His Word and His voice. Ask Him to empower you to live with integrity, especially when it is difficult to do so. Thank Him for His grace to forgive your mistakes.