**THIS OR THAT**

**PART 6 LIVING WITH INTEGRITY**

**PERSONAL NOTES**

OPEN

1. Welcome to our online campus.
2. We are 26 DAYS – From the New Year
3. What new habits are you building in your life???
4. Today we want to talk about “Living with Integrity”
5. In a world of THIS OR THAT – choices and decisions – it is INTEGRITY that will guide us down a path of no regrets.
6. Integrity is talked about A LOT in leadership, business schools, etc.
7. I have come to the conclusion that the reason so many people have a hard time living a life of integrity has nothing to do with a lack of knowledge.
8. It is not because we don’t know right from wrong.
9. It’s because it is much more difficult to live a life of integrity and do the right thing than it is to bend the rules and lend a blind eye to doing what’s easy.
10. It is HARD to live a life of integrity.
11. Integrity is defined as

in·teg·ri·ty

*1: firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values:* the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.

*2: an unimpaired condition:* ***SOUNDNESS***

*3: the quality or state of being complete or whole*

* "Integrity is deciding to integrate my heart’s value into my daily actions" ~ John Maxwell
* Integrity is making my daily actions line up with my heart’s values.
* **Integrity - establishing a system of values by which all of your life is judged. (navigating system--something that guides you)**
* Integrity is somewhat of an internal compass.

**Proverbs 10:9** The man of integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out. NIV

Integrity Quiz

1. Is who you are on the inside the same as what people see on the outside?
2. If they could peel back the layers – what would they find?
3. Famous Jazz player put it this way – “If it ain’t in your heart, it ain’t in your horn”
4. Integrity will not allow your lips to violate your heart.
5. No difference between what you appear to be and what your family knows you to be regardless of the situation.
6. Do you conduct a regular heart examination?

**Psalms 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. NIV

* + - 1. A short but powerful prayer.
      2. An immediate response
      3. Socrates made this statement: “Live and examine life”
      4. Another Expounded: “If you must live an unexamined life then please don’t inflict it on the rest of us.”
      5. Eventually we are going to inflict our life on others
      6. Do you know what your price is? And do you run from it?
* What is our price in the midst of temptation?
* Have we really evaluated that?
* Do you know when to run?
* We are naïve if we don’t think we have a price?
* Financial, moral boundaries.

1. Are your values consistent or subjective to the moment?

**Psalm 25:21** May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you. (NIV)

1. Our challenge is to live a committed life in an uncommitted world.

* To live a life where we maintain values in a world that doesn’t have values.
* Cannot be up for negotiation at any level.

1. Integrity cannot be built on adjustable values.

GOLF STORY:

In 1994, golfer Davis Love, III, called a one stroke penalty against himself in the Western Open. He had moved his marker on the green to get it out of another player's putting line. One or two holes later, he could not remember whether he had moved his ball back to the original spot. So unsure, Love gave himself an additional stroke. As it turned out, that one stroke caused him to miss the cut and get knocked out of the tournament. If he had made the cut and finished dead last, he would have earned $2,000 for the week. When the year was over, Love was $590 short of making the cut to go to the masters.

Love began 1995 needing to win a tournament to get into the event. When asked how much it would bother him if he lost going to the masters by calling a penalty on himself, Love's answer was simple: How would I feel if I won the masters and wondered for the rest of my life if I had cheated to get in. This story has a happy ending, The week before the 1995 masters, Love qualified by winning a tournament in New Orleans Then in the masters, he finished second winning $237,600.

**Proverbs 11:3** - The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. NIV

The Integrity Advantage

What does it mean to live integrity out in every day life – here are some things that illustrate that inward quality.

1. People with integrity know the little things count.

Todays world – “Don’t sweat the small things”

***Song of Songs (Solomon) 2:15*** *Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom. NIV*

1. Integrity is seldom lost in a moment. (It happens a little bit at a time.)

* They have discovered that the Titanic – was not lost by a large gash – but a series of SIX small slits that eventually overwhelmed the vessel.
* Same with us today – most people will never make a major blunder in one day – but we will let a little slit pass by.
* Eventually we get weighted down – SINKS us

1. It is the slow distortion of truth, which leads to integrity breakdown.
2. Take the small breaches in the character seriously. (React to them aggressively.)

* React to the small foxes – if gone unchecked – they lead to things bigger and bigger.

1. People with integrity find the white when others see the gray.

**Isaiah 5:20** Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. (NIV)

* + - * 1. Don’t let the pace of life push you into bad decisions.
        2. Remember the Bible principle of being still and knowing God.

***Psalms 46:10*** *"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." NIV*

* + *Honor the biblical mandate of being still.*
  + *Listen to HIS insight and directions*
  + *It is always easier to catch up than to make up.*
    - * 1. It is in the hustle of life that we must be most sensitive to the nudge of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
    - Must have our spiritual antennas up at all times.

1. People of integrity fess up when they mess up.

*Psalms 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. NKJV*

* + - Apologize when you are wrong.

1. Integrity requires activity. There are times when we cannot stay silent and there are times that we must not stay seated.

* People who are willing to make things right.

1. Integrity requires a response. Many times it is simply saying, “I’m sorry.”
2. People of integrity do what they say they’ll do.

**Matthew 5:37** All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. NIV

1. We must pursue accuracy. We live in a world where expectations are unrealistic.

* Warren Buffet was speaking to a group of MBA’s and he was asked, “What do you consider when hiring?”
* Three things: **first – personal integrity**, **second – intelligence** (constantly willing to learn)
* **“Third, someone of high energy.**”
* “If I had to only choose one? I would choose personal integrity – because the other two are of no value without integrity.”

1. People of integrity act like they are being watched.

**1 Timothy 4:12** Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (NIV)

1. Recognize that others are watching you, mimicking you.
2. Someone once said: “Our lives are known and read by all men – don’t be found in the fiction section.”
3. Integrity is a victory you win for a value you hold when you could compromise and take the easy way out.
4. All of us face those moments.
5. Integrity is holding to your values
6. Its doing the job complete – not half way
7. EX: Joseph – Potiphar’s wife.
8. David: after his sin with Bathsheba and having her husband, Uriah killed.
9. He finally repented and prayed:

**“Psalms 51:4** Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, NIV

1. Interesting prayer – as it seems he actually sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah???
2. David saw the bigger picture:
3. When we quit caring what God says about us – we really aren’t concerned what people say about us.
4. If we are not bothered – something is wrong
5. Never get to a place where we are comfortable.
6. When what man knows --- bothers you more than what God knows – Integrity is not going to be an attribute in your life.

CLOSE

* + 1. Will you be a person of integrity?
    2. What adjustments will you need to make in order to live a life of integrity?
    3. When we live and walk in integrity we lay the foundation for God to build something great in us – and through us.
    4. QUESTION: Can God trust you? Count on you? Is your “word” good?