

# The Importance of Integrity

A new beginning happens best with wisdom. And if there's anything we should want in times of confusion, it should be wisdom. Other than Jesus, the wisest man ever on earth was Solomon, who offers exactly what we need. Let's revisit the Bible's old wisdom in a new way to give light to a wise path forward.



---

## INTRODUCTION

As we continue to explore new beginnings, today we were reminded of the importance of integrity. We reviewed what it means to have integrity, the benefits of having integrity, and how to walk with integrity. Integrity goes hand in hand with wisdom. Wisdom reveals the right path - and when we exercise integrity, we take that path!

## STARTER QUESTION

We know that integrity is an honorable trait, but it is not always easy – not even in the game of golf. Pastor Jared shared the story of Bob Jones, a golfer who demonstrated integrity when no one was looking. His choice to do the right thing may have caused him to lose the tournament, but he won the respect of the golf world in doing so. Can you think of someone that you would give the Bob Jones Award to for demonstrating integrity under pressure? What was the situation, the options, and the consequences?

## INTO THE WORD

Pastor Jared pointed us to scriptures in Proverbs 10:9, 11:3, and 20:7 for the benefits of integrity. A few other verses include Psalm 25:21 and 41:12, as well as Proverbs 13:6. (There are so many verses to choose from on the topic of integrity!) Compare those scriptures to Deuteronomy 9:5. Are we always rewarded and/or shown favor by God if we have integrity? Why or why not?

Read Deuteronomy 25:13-15 and Leviticus 19:35-36. It was particularly important throughout the Old Testament to apply standard units of measure correctly. What do these verses suggest about the importance of being honest? Identify some standards we are measured against today and discuss how honesty affects those measures.

## APPLICATION

Integrity is always a good thing, right? Are there any situations you can think of where there may be ethical dilemmas in maintaining your integrity? Are there any situations where kindness, mercy, and integrity cannot all be maintained at the same time? What should you do?

Discuss the idea of lawfulness in the context of integrity. Does following the law (man's law not God's law) mean you have integrity? Can you follow the law and lack integrity? Can you have integrity but not follow the law?

During this pandemic, how do we keep a community of believers around us? What are some practical ways to do this if some of our fellow believers do not feel comfortable yet worshipping corporately or in small groups?

## **PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we want to honor you with our choices and do what is right...to be honest and lead lives with integrity...but even though we benefit from doing the right thing, it is not always easy. Please help us to remember that having integrity is not being perfect but is something we should actively work on. Please guide our steps, help us match our behavior with our beliefs, and be shining examples for you. Amen.