

BUILDING KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

1 John 4:1, 6-11

The Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge spanning Tampa, Florida collapsed at 7:33 a.m. on May 9, 1980. A freighter, the M/V Summit Venture collided with a pier on the southbound span of the bridge during a thunderstorm. It sent 1200 feet of the bridge plummeting into Tampa Bay. The collision caused six cars, a truck and a Greyhound bus to fall 150 feet into the water, killing 35 people.

Engineers discovered structural integrity design problems with the precast concrete segmental columns. Sections became corroded. They found there was insufficient supporting pile depth that jeopardized the integrity of the bridge.

Without structural integrity, a building or bridge will collapse under pressure. A bridge without structural integrity will cause cars to plunge into the water. A ship without integrity will sink. A plane without integrity will fall out of the sky.

So let me ask you:

- Would you get on a plane with a history of mechanical failures?
- Then why would you risk intimate friendships with people with little to no integrity?
- Why would you place your psyche and personal life in the hands of someone lacking in personal and moral integrity?

Integrity is God's preservative for His intimacy for you in human flesh.
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- Integrity is the security of love for safe friendships. There isn't a safe friendship without integrity.
- Integrity starts from faith in God's passion for you.
- Joseph told Potiphar's wife "Because I love my master I cannot have sex with you. Even though I can get away with it and nobody will know."
- Integrity is an issue of the heart.
 - It's God's Spirit and nature speaking softly to your sin nature to guard His life in you.
 - Integrity is showing people your love for God in hard and difficult decisions that your flesh wants to override you with.
 - You see, love, and integrity go together.
 - And only by His intimate love can we grow in having greater integrity.

Integrity is a benchmark and a goal that is used to make decisions that rely on truth and honesty.

Integrity is not something you get and you now have it.

Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught. – J.C. Watts

If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters. – Alan Simpson

- It comes with experience and time.
- It comes with making mistakes and learning from them.
- It comes by keeping a teachable attitude at all times.
- As you grow in intimacy with God you grow with integrity.

Integrity requires four things:

1. Faith and active trusting in God's love
 2. Fearing God and His Word
 3. Humility and servanthood towards God and others
 4. Compassion and a love for people
- These four principles will cause you to build safe relationships with longevity.
1. Faith and active trusting in God's love. Psalm 41:1-12 AMP
 2. Fearing God and His Word Job 2:6-10
 - a. Leader yelled at me for a district event
 - b. Leader falsely accused me
 - c. There was a time I did not show integrity when a national leader held onto a video monitor of mine for a week in airport locker.
 - d. Another time when a national leader refused to pay me for a project.
 3. Humility and servanthood towards others. (This is where the fruit of the Spirit and character come in.)
 - a. Humility is the characteristic of Christ.
 - b. A man went around saying I was cheating on my wife and yet I could not sling mud at him.
 - c. Humility is also seen in how we control our pride. People get promoted on humility. Pride doesn't feel it needs to be intimate with God.
 - i. James 4:6
 - ii. Proverbs 12:22 – Integrity is measured by how we control our tongues.
 - iii. Job 27:4-6 Proverbs 18:18 healing of the tongue.
- To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves. – Will Durant
- iv. Psalms 26:1-3
 - v. Matthew 15:19 – This is why we need integrity

Examples:

1. Brother Putnam and the Ark
 2. Giving an honest opinion around new converts and new Christians
- Integrity is measured by how we handle the money of others and how we handle our money.
 - Eisenberg and the Bucks gifts

 - Servanthood is doing what's best for the greater good, even if I don't get the credit.

The Enemy of Integrity is:

1. Selfishness
 2. Unforgiveness or wounds that won't heal
 3. Excessive fear that is not under control
 4. Lack of self-control
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4. Compassion and love for people is the fourth ingredient for integrity. 1 Cor. 15:33-35
Evil communications
Integrity in the friends I choose (Applewhite business friends, Absalom attracted the discontented.
 - a. The world says "lie to get ahead."
 - b. Lie to protect your friend or loved one from authority
 - c. It's ok to steal or cheat

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