



*Week 5*  
**NO MORE  
COMPROMISING  
YOUR INTEGRITY**

True integrity defines who we are when no one can see us. It involves words we say and actions we do in private or with a limited number of people present. Words said behind closed doors or in a locker room often reveal who we really are far more clearly than our public persona.

**What actions come to mind when you hear that a man has compromised his integrity?**

**Why is maintaining your integrity so important?**

We may think we can hide who we really are in secret, but God sees. God knows. And often in His providential ways, other people come to know as well. Just ask more than twenty high-profile business leaders, celebrities, and talk-show hosts who lost their jobs in the past few years over something they said in private. In contrast, true integrity doesn't shift based on the people present or on the location. True integrity stays consistent throughout each moment of our lives.

*Use these statements to follow along as you watch video session 5.*

Far too many men are signaling one way while living another.

*Integrity:* living up to one's legitimate standards

It is when men decide that God will set the standard and it is that standard they will pursue that we become men of integrity, and we have the impact this society, our families, and we ourselves so desperately need.

We've allowed the world to dumb down God's standard of manhood, what it means to be a husband and a father, our roles in the church, and the influence we are to be making on society.

We want God to show up with our lack of integrity, but God shows up when we demonstrate integrity.

If you don't have that kind of faith in God, you'll compromise your integrity because you think men make the final decision, that people are the final arbiters of your well-being, that people are the source of your career.

Sometimes when you maintain integrity as a man, it will cost you.

You will find yourself, as a man, in the lions' den, and God expects you to keep the standard.

God can give you back the integrity you think you lost.

# MAN UP

*Use the following questions to discuss the video teaching.*

**Read the following verse together.**

*Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.*

DANIEL 6:10

As a child, you probably heard the story of Daniel in the lion's den, or as a parent, you may have told it to your children. We often focus on the lions and their refusal to eat Daniel for dinner. Yet an important principle in this story is often overshadowed by the sensational aspect of God's power over lions—the principle of Daniel's consistent integrity.

**Why did Daniel leave his windows open when he prayed rather than rationalizing that he should protect himself by closing them?**

**Describe some ways men may seek to rationalize our way out of complete obedience to God in the face of risk.**

A particular group of African animals is known as the big five—the largest, most well-known animals in Africa. Though these big animals are fun to see, the continent also has a large number of other animals that are just as much fun to see. The idea of compromising a person's integrity is often applied to certain big sins as well, while the myriad ways most men compromise their integrity are ignored. We might classify sins like adultery, fraud, embezzlement, drugs, and pornography as the big five. In reality, from God's perspective, if Daniel had chosen not to pray, he would have seriously compromised his integrity.

**What are some ways men might compromise their integrity in God's eyes?**



On the video Dr. Evans said, “What far too many of us as men are doing is we’re lowering the standard—dunking at a lower standard and thinking we’ve done something. Rather than keeping God’s standard high and saying we’ve got to raise ourselves to meet His standard, we’ve allowed the world to dumb down God’s standard of manhood and to dumb down God’s standard of what it means to be a husband and a father and to dumb down God’s standard of our roles in the church and to dumb down the influence we’re to be having. We ought to be making an impact on society. Therefore, we have dumbbed down our integrity.”

**Identify ways we’ve dumbbed down God’s standard of biblical manhood and, as a result, are failing to make an impact on society.**

Daniel could pray with the window open because he believed God was his Source. God owned the outcome. Men, God is your Source. Your boss isn’t your source. Your health isn’t. Even your family isn’t. Although we may have a say, no one has the final say but God.

**How can believing God is your Source free you to make decisions rooted in biblical integrity?**

God has a standard of integrity. It isn’t hidden from us but disclosed in His Word. We’re all called to love God and demonstrate His love to others. This is the basis of all ethical living in God’s kingdom. His standard encompasses all of life. If you haven’t lived up to this standard in the past, you can start today. Start now. Never let fear dictate your decisions. God has your back when you align your life under His standard.

**What’s one practical action you can take this week to align yourself more fully with God’s standard of biblical manhood? It could be something you do at work, at home, or in your personal spiritual development. Commit to hold one another accountable at the next group session.**

## PRAYER

*Close the session with prayer.*

Father, in a culture that consistently lowers standards, we want to remain focused on You. We want to aim high in all we do, knowing we serve an audience of one. Convict us when our integrity needs to improve. Forgive us when we’ve failed You in the past. Strengthen us to live according to Your standard. In Christ’s name, amen.

# *How to Internalize Integrity*

Living a life of integrity includes all areas of your life. Your public integrity is what other people see in the workplace or in your home and church. Your private integrity exists between you and God, applying to what you say and do when no one else will find out. Keeping your integrity level high is God's standard for you as a man. Blessings will come as a result of your personal integrity, just as Daniel experienced protection from the lions when thrown into their den.

Here are five ways a kingdom man can cultivate integrity.

## **1. Don't Wait Around**

Don't wait for your boss, your wife, or your environment to improve before you make a move. Integrity refers to who you are on the inside, regardless of what's happening on the outside. Don't blame others if your level of integrity isn't what it should be.

## **2. Set Your Standards in Advance**

Decide on the standards you won't compromise before you find yourself in the middle of a problem. You can't become a man of integrity on the spot. You can't wait until the action gets hot and heavy to make decisions of integrity. Establish biblical guidelines for integrity in advance.

## **3. Develop a Regular Devotional Life**

Make spending time with God the rule, not the exception. As you see in Daniel's case, cultivating your walk with God throughout the day will do more than anything else to help you become a man of integrity.

## **4. Find Friends Who Will Hold You Accountable**

Find friends who ask hard questions about what you're doing and not doing. Be authentic. Cultivate trust in the relationship that allows you to share failures. Don't judge, and you won't be judged (see Luke 6:37). Stay in contact and reach out when you need a reminder to stay strong.

## **5. Major on God, Not Your Circumstances**

If Daniel had majored on his circumstances, he would never have maintained his integrity. He would have compromised just like everybody else. He would no longer have been an extraordinary man who was living for God's purposes. God didn't save you so that you could become like everybody else. He saved you to be extraordinary.

## BIBLE STUDY 1

### *Walk Securely*

Integrity is a critical issue today. In a society where people feel they can't trust anyone anymore, integrity is a very important subject. It's important for the business owner who's looking for employees he can trust. It's critical for the church that's looking for godly leaders they can follow. And it's vital for a generation of young men who need role models who'll lead them into lives of purpose, meaning, and impact.

When we talk about integrity, we're talking about a person's trustworthiness. The word *integrity* means "complete" or "whole." It means what you say and what you mean are the same thing. It means when you make a promise, you keep it. It means when you say you'll do something, you do it.

**Read the following verse and answer the questions.**

*He who walks in integrity walks securely,  
But he who perverts his ways will be found out.*

PROVERBS 10:9

**What does it mean to live with integrity?**

**This verse says a lack of integrity "will be found out." Do you believe this? Other than public exposure, how will a lack of integrity be found out?**

**What does it mean to walk securely?**

**How can knowing you walk securely contribute to your peace of mind?**

There are two ways to live—with or without integrity. Our folly always has a way of being revealed. Even if others don't realize our lack of integrity, God does. Nothing is hidden from His sight (see Heb. 4:13). What's more, God sees beyond the surface and into a man's heart. His sight goes beyond our conduct and into our character and motivation. God always knows our lack of integrity. In contrast, men who've trusted Christ and are committed to living in line with His standard walk securely, knowing they're right with God and others.

**What are some ways Satan seeks to trap us so that we'll compromise our integrity?**

Most men have compromised their integrity at some point. It may have been at a newsstand or at the gift shop at the airport, when you looked around and made sure no one was watching before you picked up a magazine. Or maybe you've turned your phone, computer, or iPad to private-browsing mode and hit the porn sites. After all, who would ever know?

Compromise may not involve anything you're doing. It may all be in your mind. Nonetheless, compromise is still at play because integrity has to do with more than your outward behavior. Integrity is about more than conduct; it's about what happens in your heart.

**Would you describe yourself as a person of integrity? Would your friends and family agree?**

When we talk about integrity, we aren't talking about your reputation. Your reputation is what other people think of you. Integrity goes beyond that to what you're really like on the inside. It refers to your character.

What you do when no one is watching is who you are. What you do in secret and what you may think you got away with will come out in God's economy because the spiritual principle in Proverbs 10:9 holds true. That's why honesty and repentance are key. Only those qualities can prevent the consequences of compromising your integrity.

**The word *repentance* means to make a 180-degree turn. It means turning from your sin and trusting in Christ. Why is it important to accept God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace when you've failed?**

**Why are we often reluctant to do this?**

Jesus' atonement covers all sins at all levels in all ways. Accepting His forgiveness, however, can sometimes be more difficult for some sins than others. Why? Mostly because our culture puts a higher emphasis on some sins than others. As a result, far too many men fall back into sin because they live under the chains and oppression of unconfessed sin or unreceived forgiveness.

If we're going to be men of integrity rather than look for an excuse to take the easy way out, it will boil down to our personal walk with God. It will come down to our ability to trust Christ's forgiveness of all our sins and to walk in the newness of His love. When we're right with God, we're then able to treat others the way He has called us to do.

**Read Psalm 119:9-16. What help has God given us to live according to His standard?**

**Identify concrete wisdom in this passage for maintaining integrity.**

We'll live with integrity only to the degree that we meet God's standard. God hasn't left us on our own. He cares about our integrity and has given us His Word so that we understand what it means to live in a relationship with Him. The more we focus on His Word, hide it in our hearts, and model our lives after the wisdom we find there, the more we'll be men of integrity. But even in moments when we're pressed to make a choice that doesn't honor God, He has given us help:

*No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

When we're tempted, God knows. Thankfully, He has given us a way out. If you know Jesus, He's alive and working in your life. You don't have to succumb to temptation or compromise your integrity. He's present with you to help you overcome.

**When you're tempted, why is it helpful to realize that you have a way out?**

**The next time you're tempted to compromise your integrity, how will you respond?**

## PRAY

Ask God to reveal areas in which you may not recognize a lapse in your integrity so that you can identify it, repent of it, and live without compromise. Ask Him to show you ways you can encourage other men to live with integrity. Seek God's forgiveness for hurting anyone as a result of a lapse in your personal integrity.