



SHEPHERDS

Reclaiming man's role in the world!

Men and Integrity!

Luke 6:43-45

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on October 18, 2025



Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **SHEPHERD: Reclaiming man's role in the world!**
- This series is for men!
- Let's open with a word of prayer. **Pray.**
- This morning we will look at integrity.
- Integrity is defined as: adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty – a sound, unimpaired, or perfect condition.
- The English word 'integrity' occurs 20 times in the Bible, 19 in OT = completeness, innocence, full, perfect.
- Integrity is your inner code of conduct.
- It is a pre-determined set of internal rules and guidelines that determine your behavior.
- A man who is described as having integrity is one whose behaviors consistently match what he says is important to him.
- As I reflected on that, I found it interesting that we typically associate goodness with this trait – a man of integrity is a good man, not necessarily in his relationship with God, but in relation to other people.
- Evil people may have a moral and ethical code they follow consistently, but it is unlikely that they would be called men of integrity.
- Turn to **Luke 6.**
- First, we will look at something Jesus said about the reality of integrity.
- And then, we will look at five areas where we ought to focus on our integrity.
- Jesus expressed a spiritual truth using a practical illustration.
- **Luke 6:43-44**
- In nature, some trees bring forth good fruit, and some other trees in the same environment do not.

- Jesus is saying that you can look at the fruit and see what the quality of the tree is – whether it is a good tree or a bad tree.
- Jesus continued.
- **Luke 6:45**
- Jesus is saying you can tell the same thing about people.
- You can look at the fruit of their lives and determine whether there is good in their heart or evil.
- As men, people will look at the fruit of our lives, meaning what our life is producing, and be able to tell whether we are men of integrity or not.
- There is no question that becoming a man of integrity is harder than conforming to the ways of the world around you, but it is worth it.

Proverbs 10:9

He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.

- **Proverbs 11:3**

The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

- **Proverbs 20:7**

The righteous *man* walks in his integrity; his children *are* blessed after him.

- Turn to **Ephesians 3**.
- Being men of integrity is not something that just happens in a man's life.
- It is also not a spiritual gift that God imparts to men.
- Being a man of integrity is a choice that affects all other choices.
- It requires determination and the will to be unmoved by the flow of the world around us.
- That doesn't mean we don't need help.
- **Ephesians 3:14-19**
- Paul was praying for the people of the Ephesian church that God would 'strengthen the inner man'.
- With God's help, we can be men of integrity.
- You can try to do it without God's help, but I wouldn't recommend that.
- Let's take the rest of our time this morning to look at five areas where we should strive to be men of integrity.

- **Areas of Integrity**

- First one – **With God.**

- To be the kind of men God created us to be, we need to tend to our relationship with God first.

- Three areas stand out that we ought to focus on to become men of integrity with God.

- Each of these will make it easier to be men of integrity in the other areas also.

- The first is **Faith.**

- To be men of integrity with God, we need to believe Him.

- And there is one certain source for that faith. **Romans 10:17**

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- Men of integrity are men of the Word.

- That is how we establish our moral and ethical code, our principles.

- If your morals and ethics are not coming from the Bible, where are they coming from, and how do you know they are right?

- The second is **Honesty.**

- Common in the description of men of integrity is honesty.

- We also need to be honest with God.

- Don't try to hide your sin from God – you can't anyway.

- Don't try to justify your mistakes, by blaming others – own your sins and mistakes. **1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- A man of integrity is honest with God.

- Third thing is **Obedience.**

- Jesus pointed out the hypocrisy of some men. **Luke 6:46**

But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?

- A man of integrity knows what God expects of him and does it.

- Even when it is inconvenient, uncomfortable, or unpopular.

- The first area of integrity is with God.

- The second area is **With Yourself.**

- Integrity comes from within us – Paul said... **2 Corinthians 13:5**

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- First – **Be Honest** - Just as you need to be honest with God, be brutally honest with yourself – walk in your strengths, eliminate or defend against your weaknesses.
- In your areas of weakness, have an accountability partner.
- Second – **Be Disciplined.**
- A disciplined person knows what needs to be done, and does it, regardless of personal cost or discomfort. **1 Corinthians 9:26-27**
Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.
- Means having the courage to say ‘yes’ to some things, and ‘no’ to others.
- Third – **Be Pre-determined**
- Decide in advance how you are going to respond to temptations to compromise your integrity.
- For example: I have resolved never to be alone with a woman who is not related to me.
- I work alone five days a week here.
- If a woman comes in and needs to talk with me.
- We sit in the foyer in front of the camera.
- And often I don’t even sit down.
- Be aware of your surroundings, think about what you would do.
- That keeps your mind focused on keeping your integrity.
- The third area – **Romantic Relationships.**
- If you are married = your wife, if not = your girlfriend/fiancé.
- First – **Be Open** – don’t have secrets – toxic chemicals to your relationship.
- Second – **Be Pure** – means every woman who is not your wife – treated like your mother or sister – don’t touch.
- Also, don’t look – pornography is sin – be accountable.
- Third – **Be Committed** – be all-in, no half measures.
- After your relationship with Christ, your relationship with your wife or, for you single men, your future wife is your most important relationship.
- The Fourth area – **At Work.**

- Most men spend a large chunk of their life at work – where our integrity can often be seen by the most people.
- First – **Be Honest** – don't steal or cheat your employer of resources or time.
- Second – **Be Reliable** – be there when you are supposed to, and do the job they are paying you for, even if they are not being fair.
- Third – **Be Responsible** – take responsibility if you make a mistake, and don't take credit for another person's work.
- Fifth area – **With Friends.**
- Guys, this is a huge area and deserves a session all to itself.
- If you are going to be a man of integrity, you need to have men around you who are trying to be men of integrity.
- First – **Be Positive** – no one wants to be around someone who is always grumbling, complaining, and whining about their life.
- Second – **Be Dependable** – if you say you are going to do something, do it, even if a better offer comes along.
- Third – **Be Confidential** – if a friend tells you something in confidence, tell no one, not even your wife – ever!
- This was just scratching the surface of this topic.
- Being a man of integrity touches on every part of your life.
- Your life matters to God and to those whom He has placed around you.
- God made you male, on purpose and for a purpose.
- In the end, only a life of integrity will be of any lasting value
- We'll close with a Teddy Roosevelt quote:
Knowing what's right doesn't mean much unless you do what's right.
- **Prayer**