



# STRENGTHENING OUR GRIP

A study of issues especially relevant to the lives and faith of Christian men

## Lesson 2 → Strengthening Your Grip On Integrity:

- A. While the world seems to be losing its grip on priorities, there's many other Biblical and foundation principles our world is losing its grip on as well... One of those things is integrity.
  - 1. People define character as what you are when no one is looking and integrity is much like this
  - 2. It determines how you will react. When faced with circumstances where you have a choice to either do right or do wrong, your integrity, or lack of it, will determine what you do.
  - 3. Many people in our world today lack integrity! The decisions many make are based on what personally benefits them most at the time or what minimizes the consequences they have to face. The world needs more people of principle and strong moral character!
- B. It is not what we eat but what we digest that makes us strong; not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; and not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity." (Sir Francis Bacon)
- C. Integrity matters, not only because it indicates our spiritual sincerity before God, but it also will make or break our efforts to share the gospel with others! It shows if we are genuine or a fraud!

## Questions For Class Discussion:

- 1. What do you believe integrity means? Consider these passages in defining it (Psalm 26:1 & 9-12; Prov 2:6-8; 11:1-4; 19:1; 20:5-7; 28:6)

**"Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.**

**Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?**

**The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children a blessed after him." (Prov 20:5-7)**

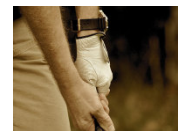
- 2. Job is given as an example of integrity (Job 2:1-9). How was Job a man of integrity?

- 3. Integrity is often linked to the idea of uprightness (1 Kings 19:4). What does it mean to be upright?

**"Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering."  
Psalm 26:1**

- 4. Integrity is something that is most often observed when put to the test. Name some general things that test our integrity (things, times, or circumstances that show whether we have it or not).

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory (Col 3:1-4)



4. According to Proverbs 24:10 & 27:21 gives two things that test our integrity. What are they and how they do they test our integrity?

"Make us choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be contented with half truth when whole truth can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice & injustice and knows no fear when right and truth are in jeopardy"  
*(Daily Cadets Prayer at West Point)*

6. The book of Daniel could easily be a textbook on the subject of integrity – It gives us examples of what real integrity looks like!

a. What do we learn from Daniel and his friends in Daniel 1:1-8 about integrity?

b. Read Daniel chapter six and look for Daniel's integrity on display and for lessons we can learn from him:

1) In Daniel 6:3, 4, 5, and 10 we find four different ways in which his integrity is tested and proven to be real... What are those areas?

2) What are some lessons we can learn or application we can make from Daniel 6:1-23 concerning our integrity?

7. Find another passage we haven't discussed that deals with our integrity. What can we learn from this passage about integrity?

8. What are some specific circumstances we may face as men that can challenge our integrity?

9. Self-Reflection: What things do I allow to occur that hinder or damage my integrity? Why do I allow them to persist if I know they hinder me from becoming all God wants me to be?

There was a man from Long Beach who went into a fried chicken franchise to get some chicken for himself and the young lady with him. She waited in the car while he went in to pick up the chicken. Inadvertently, the manager of the store handed the guy the box in which he had placed the financial proceeds of the day instead of the box of chicken. He was going to make a deposit and camouflaged it by putting the money in a friend chicken box. The fellow took his box, went back to the car, and the two of them drove away. When they got to the park and opened the box they discovered they had a box full of money. Now that's a very vulnerable moment for the average individual. He realized there must have been a mistake, so he got back in his car and returned to the place and gave the money back to the manager. Well, the manager was elated! He was so pleased that he told the young man, "Stick around, I want to call the newspaper and have them take your picture. You the most honest guy in town." The fellow said, "Oh, no, don't do that!" "Why not?" Asked the manager. "Well," he said, "you see, I'm married, and the woman I'm with is not my wife!"

**"The swift wind of compromise is a lot more devastating than the sudden jolt of misfortune"**