

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025

52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 43 - INTEGRITY: DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT! Proverbs 10:9

**“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely,
but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”**

What is the single most important trait of a person who desires to truly make a difference in our world today? Some would say it's intellect. After all, knowledge is power in many ways. Other contend it's intensity, that spirit of conquest accompanied by a passion that becomes contagious. Still others suggest it's insight, good old common sense, along with the ability to clearly see certain issues. However, I contend the most important trait is integrity. We have all known people along life's journey who have incredible intellect, but no integrity, and they are no longer in the race. Others possessing amazing intensity and passion but little integrity have gone the same way. The same is true of people with keen insight but no integrity. Integrity is our most valuable commodity. Integrity is that state or quality of being complete, and it is freedom from corrupting influences or motives. You can equate it with such words as honesty, completeness, and incorruptibility. Each of us lives in four distinct spheres of life and influence. You live in a **private** world. There is a part of you where no one really goes. Not even those closest to us know all our private thoughts. No one invades your private world except you and the God who knows all your private thoughts. You also live in a **personal** world. This is the part of you that you share with a small circle of immediate family and perhaps a few friends who really know you intimately. Next comes your **professional** (or work) world. This existence consists of dozens or even scores of men and women who, although they do not know you personally, much less privately, know you in a professional (or work) setting. Finally, you live in a **public** world. This is the world in which people have never met you personally or dealt with you professionally, but they have formed an opinion about you. We call this our public persona. The reality of these four spheres raises an important question: where is integrity in life rooted?

INTEGRITY IS ROOTED IN ONE'S PRIVATE LIFE

Integrity stems from an inner code, not an outer promotion. Integrity is rooted in that private life we develop alone with God in the secret, hidden place.

INTEGRITY IS REFLECTED IN ONE'S PERSONAL LIFE

Once integrity is rooted in our private life, it begins to be reflected in our relationships with those closest to us. Integrity does not find its roots in the personal world. However, it is certainly reflected there.

INTEGRITY IS REINFORCED IN ONE'S PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Integrity is reinforced on the anvil of personal experience and practised in the marketplace. Our greatest opportunity to make a difference and encourage our culture is out in the marketplace. It is imperative that, as Christians, we are men and women of integrity in the professional world around us. There is a small and decreasing percentage of people in church on Sunday morning. However, on Monday, multitudes enter the marketplace. They take note of individuals on integrity. Integrity is not rooted in our work life; it is only reinforced there. That is, if we truly possess it.

INTEGRITY IS REVEALED IN ONE'S PUBLIC LIFE

Once we are thrust into the public arena, it is too late to look for integrity. If we do not already possess it, it is too late to look for integrity. However, some seek to put a spin on their personal promotion in a hopeless effort to somehow lead others to believe they are people of integrity. But integrity is not rooted in spin, it's rooted in our private world. Solomon's words ring true today: **“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”** When integrity is rooted in the private world, it is reflected in the personal world, reinforced in the professional world, (the world of work), and, ultimately, revealed in the public world for the glory of the God whom we love and serve.

As you memorise this verse, meditate on your own private life. Bring focus to that time alone with God, to your hidden life. Then “all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33)