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People of Integrity

2 Chronicles 16:9 - "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are **fully** committed to Him."

I. Definition: FROM WEBSTERS NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY

- A. most commonly used in our society - 'firm adherence to a moral code of values'
- B. "the quality or state of being complete or undivided"

QUOTE - "A person with integrity is not divided (that's DUPLICITY) or merely pretending (that's HYPOCRISY). He or she is 'whole', life is 'put together,' and things are working together harmoniously."¹

¹ Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe, The Integrity Crisis, page 21

//. Basic scriptural references to integrity

A. personal blessings:

Guarded, Protected, Guided, Upheld or Maintained, Secure

1. Proverbs 13:6 - "Righteousness **guards** the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner,"
2. Psalm 25:21 - "May integrity and uprightness **protect** me, because my hope is in you."
3. Proverbs 11:3- "The integrity of the upright **guides** them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity."
4. Psalms 41:12 - "In my integrity you **uphold** me and set me in your presence forever."
5. Proverbs 10:9 - "The man of integrity walks **securely**, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out."

B. Our integrity must be maintained despite life's circumstances

1. Job 1:1-2:10

1 ¶ In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

2 He had seven sons and three daughters,

3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. **He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.**

4 ¶ His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

5 **When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.**

6 ¶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From

roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.

10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

13 ¶ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,

14 a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

18 While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house,

19 when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

20 ¶ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

1 ¶ On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him.

2 And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

3 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

4 "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life.

5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

6 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

7 ¶ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.

8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

C. The response to our integrity by God and mankind

1. God's response

1 Chron 29:17 - "I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity."

2. Man's response

Prov 29:10 - "Bloodthirsty men hate a man of integrity and seek to kill the upright."

///. We must understand that a person's integrity involves the entirety of a person - the heart, the mind, and the will.

In this regard consider the contrast represented by the following two passages:

Mark 12:30 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

1 John 2:15 - "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him."

A. Must have a SINGLE HEART - Seat, center of affections and emotions.

1. Since we are raised with Christ, set our hearts on things above - Col 3:1
2. what does it mean to set our hearts on things above ?

a. DESIRE AND PRAY FOR A HEART OF INTEGRITY, an undivided heart, trusting God will honor that desire

1. Psa 86:11- 13

11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; **give me an undivided heart**, that I may fear your name.

12 I will praise you, O Lord my God, **with all my heart**; I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.

2. Ezek 11:17-21

17 "Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.'

18 "They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols.

19 **I will give them an undivided heart** and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.

20 Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

21 But as for those whose hearts are devoted to their vile images and detestable idols, I will bring down on their own heads what they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD."

QUOTE: John Gill

Ver. 19. And I will give them one heart, &c.] In opposition to a divided heart, #Ho 10:2; divided between the true God and idols, wavering and halting between two opinions, sometimes serving God, and sometimes Baal; a heart to pursue one way of worship, and to serve the Lord with one shoulder or consent, #Jer 32:40 Zep 3:9; a heart sincere to God and man, in opposition to a double or hypocritical one, #Ps 12:2; a heart single to the honour and glory of God, and firmly attached to his word and worship: also concord, harmony, an unity of affections to one another, so as to be of one heart and one soul, as the first Christians were, who were Jews, #Ac 4:32; and an unity of judgment, an oneness of principle and practice, as there ought to be, #1Co 1:10; and all this is the gift of God, and flows from his grace and favour.

b. SEEK the Lord

1. Duet 4:29

29 But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him **with all your heart** and with all your soul.

2. Psa 119:58

58 ¶ I have sought your face **with all my heart**; be gracious to me according to your promise.

c. OBEDIENTLY FOLLOW God's commands, laws, and decrees

1. Duet 26:16-19

16 ¶ The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; **carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.**

17 You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey him.

18 And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands.

19 He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.

2. Psa 119:112

112 My **heart is set** on keeping your decrees to the very end.

d. REPENT AND ACCEPT GOD'S RESTORATION AND BLESSING as God honors our desire for integrity by revealing areas of fragmentation, and of division

1. Duet 30

2. Psa 139 (vss 23-24) in contrast to Jer 17:9

1 ¶ For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.

2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

5 You hem me in— behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

7 ¶ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"
12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
17 ¶ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.
19 If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men!
20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.
21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you?
22 I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

B. We must have a SINGLE MIND - Seat, center of the intellect;enabling investigation, analysis, understanding, and application,

1. Since we are raised with Christ, set our minds on things above – Col 3:2

2. to set our minds on things above means ;

a. to be TRANSFORMED, to be RENEWED in the attitude of our minds

1. Rom 12:2

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is— his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2. Eph 4:17-24

17 ¶ **So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.**

18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the

ignorance (of God) that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.

21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

3. Psa 119: 34

34 Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

b. THINK ONLY ON GODLY THINGS, TAKING EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE TO CHRIST

1. Phil 4:8

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about such things.

2. 2 Cor 10:3-5

3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

c. DON'T BE DOUBLE-MINDED, follow hard after the things of the Spirit - not the things of the sinful nature

1. Rom 8:5-9

5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

2. Gal 5: 16-25

- 16 So I say, **live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.**
- 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.
- 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.
- 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;
- 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions
- 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
- 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.
- 25 **Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

3. Phil 3:18-19

- 18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. **Their mind is on earthly things.**

4. James 1:5-8

- 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.
- 6 But when he asks, **he must believe and not doubt**, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.
- 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;
- 8 **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.**

C. We must have a SINGLE WILL - Solid, uncompromising determination, focusing on an objective. (The WILL structures and drives the heart and the mind)

1. we must be people of SINGLE FOCUS IN OUR CONVICTIONS

a. Isa 50:7

- 7 Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have **I set my face like flint**, and I know I will not be put to shame.

b. Psa 119 (notice the language of the setting of the will -I shall, I will, I have, etc..)

2. this single focus will allow the working of God, through the teaching of the Word by His Spirit, to have free rein and total control in our lives resulting in our wholeness and completeness - forming us into people of integrity.

a. Phil 2:13

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose

b. 1 John 2:20,27

20 ¶ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit— just as it has taught you, remain in him.

c. 1 Cor 2: 9-10, 12

9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" —

10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

d. Rom 8:12-14

12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation— but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.

13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

e. Eph 4: 30

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

IV. SUMMARY

A. We must desire fervently to be a whole and complete person in our pursuit of, and life in, the Lord Jesus Christ - TO BE PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY.

- B. We must acquire and maintain a single focus of heart, mind, and will. Setting our wills to focus on the things of God and openly, honestly, and humbly asking God to remove a divided heart so our minds may be renewed as a result of wholeheartedly seeking the Lord through obedience to His commands as the Holy Spirit teaches and enables - standing against Satan, the flesh, and the world by taking every thought captive to Christ, allowing only pure and Godly thoughts to remain to be dwelt upon.
- C. Our integrity will guard and protect us, keeping us secure as it guides us through our lives. This integrity must be maintained regardless of life's circumstances - health or sickness, poverty or wealth, acceptance or rejection of man - for it is pleasing to the Lord.

People of Integrity 2 Chronicles 16:9

- 1. Definition
- 2. Basic Scriptural references
 - A. personal blessings pronounced
 - B. maintained despite life's circumstances
 - C. different responses to our integrity
- 3. Involves the total person : heart, mind, and will
 - A. single heart : Col 3:1
 - 1. desire
 - 2. seek
 - 3. obey
 - 4. repent
 - B. single mind : Col 3:2
 - 1. is transformed and renewed
 - 2. every thought taken captive
 - 3. double-mindedness rejected
 - C. single will
 - 1. single focus in our commitment
 - 2. free reign of God
- 4. Summary

About Bethel Presbyterian Church

The Bethel Presbyterian Church Ministry of the Word is published regularly.

VISIT US WHEN IN Broomfield, COLORADO

Feel free to visit Bethel Presbyterian Church when in Broomfield, Colorado. Bethel Presbyterian Church meets at Broomfield High School, Eagle (10th Street) and Main, Broomfield, Colorado. The telephone number of the church is 303-469-6912. The worship services are at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. each Sunday. Bethel Presbyterian Church is a member of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

All our sermons can be accessed via the World Wide Web. The recording for this sermon and the these notes can be found at [Biblical Integrity](#) . The web address for all sermons at Bethel Presbyterian Church can be found out as follows: <http://bethelpresbyterian.sermonaudio.com>

About the Preacher

Mike Mahoney preached this sermon on January 14, 2007. Mike is a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church.