




1

# INTEGRITY



- Sometimes we are guilty of wearing masks to disguise ourselves. It shouldn't be that way because we never get to know the real you.
- Jesus has called us all to be people of integrity... consistent in all we do.
- As the leaders set the vision of Jesus before us it is necessary for them to be men of integrity.
- Paul talked about the qualities of leaders in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9;
- Character matters and that is why today we are going to talk about five arenas of integrity.

2

# OUT ON THE STREET


- An Elder must have a good reputation wherever he goes.
- Why?
  1. Great Commission
  2. Church reputation
  3. Opens Doors
- An elder must have a good reputation in the community because character matters to God.



3

# IN THE CHURCH


- Paul says that the elder should not be a novice... a newby. Because it takes time!
- Last week we talked about how an elder should be "Apt to Teach". Not only ready and willing but already teaching by example and by word.
  1. Experience is important for the teacher.
  2. Successful teachers know how to reach their students, encourage, and exhort them to do better.
- An elder must have experience in the church because character matters to God.



4

# AT HOME


- Experience in being a spiritual leader begins at home. He should lead, encourage, and rebuke his wife and children in the love, compassion, and grace of God. Rule as He rules us!
- Paul is specific that a man's home life is an indicator of his spiritual life.
- He is to rule his own house well. 1 Timothy 3:5: "If a man does not know how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?"
- The home is a proving ground for men who aspire to leadership in the church.
- An elder must be the spiritual leader of his home because character matters to God.



5

# IN HIS PERSONAL LIFE

- An Elder must be serious about his walk with the Lord... a sincere heart and mind.
- The elder opens his home, his possessions, and giving his time for people.
- An elder does his ministry because he loves the Lord and he loves people who earnestly are good.
- An elder's heart is filled with love, compassion, and grace. He does not easily get angered or look for a fight. He is not divisive but looks for ways to unify his brothers.
- An elder must have the right heart that puts God and his church first because character matters to God.



6

# IN HIS FAITH WALK

- Paul says the elder should Hold fast to the faithful word as he has been taught.
- Paul states that he should be vigilant - not just to make sure he doesn't become a victim of Satan but that he warns others (1 Pe 5:8-9)
- The elder is also to be patient and model patience... The Elder must also model sanctification - seeking forgiveness from sin and being made holy. Sanctification is the process of being made holy... fit for service. Sin must be confessed so the blood of Jesus will cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:7)
- An elder must be walking the walk of faith everyday because character matters to God.



7

# NO MASKS, PLEASE!

- So it's time to take the mask off...all of them.
- Jesus wants you to take it off and be real with him. It's better for everyone!
- The world needs to see behind the mask too... to see what Jesus can do in the transformed life of the believer.
- Take off your mask and follow Jesus today!



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