

## **"Restoring Integrity & Influence"**

1 Peter 2:12 "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

### **1. Maintaining Integrity when faced with Temptation**

1 Peter 2:11 "Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul."

If something tempts you step away from it.

1 Peter 2:16 "Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God."

You can sin and not jeopardize your salvation, but integrity demands that you don't.

1 Peter 2:15 "For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men."

They will know that we are Christians by our LOVE.

What would your reaction be?

Jesus embraces sinners.

Our message to all sinners must be, "Go now and leave your life of sin."

### **2. Your integrity is tested in how well you respond to authority.**

1 Peter 2:13-14 "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right."

Jesus did not rule over anyone. He served.

The circus comes to Sunday School.

Yielding to authority and submitting to those who are in charge speaks well of one's character.

1 Peter 2:17 "Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king."

Show respect for everybody.

Love one another.

Fear God and honor the government.

1 Peter 2:18-19 "Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God."

### **3. Your integrity will be tested in how you respond to suffering.**

1 Peter 2:21 "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps."

Hebrews 12:2-3 "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

When was the last time that you took a thread of injustice, kept your mouth shut, and simply accepted it with grace?

**Live with integrity!**