

Week 5 – No More Compromising Your Integrity

Notes:

As we've talked about the past few weeks, we don't want to work our way through these sessions/go through the motions and at the end, say that sure was (or wasn't) a good study and move on. We want there to be change for each of us and to have an impact in our homes, our church and in society.

Make it personal. **Week 1** – No More Hiding Behind the Past: What from YOUR past are you laying down and giving completely to God?

Week 2 – No More Holding Back: Is there something that is and has been holding you back from being who God has called you to be? From stepping out in faith and doing whatever God has called you to do? Is it fear? Selfishness (my time)? Lack of Confidence?

Week 3 – No More Weak Leadership: As a man, what is my role and responsibility in my home, church, community and God's Kingdom?

Week 4 – No More Going Through the Motions: What is priority in your life and what defines you? Is it work/career, money, hobbies, status, etc.? When people look at you, what is the first thing they see or think of? How do you want to be seen or thought of?

- For a lot of years I was content to only go through the motions and my life didn't have much 'true' meaning. I certainly didn't have an impact in my church and community. It was only when I started making an attempt to put God first in everything that I saw true change and meaning in my life (Christ's Hands).

Week 5 – No More Compromising Your Integrity: Last week we examined the dangers of going through the motions. Why is going through the motions such an easy pattern to fall into if we're not diligent?

- Perhaps because it is easy and comfortable. Everything becomes a routine that has an expected/calculated outcome. Everything is less stressful when '**someone else**' does it. (<https://www.allworship.com/elses-obituary/>)

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Integrity: True integrity defines who we are when no one can see us. It involves words we say and actions we do in private or with a limited number of people present. We may think we can hide who we really are in secret, but God sees. God knows. And often in His providential ways, other people come to know as well. True integrity doesn't shift based on the people present or on the location. True integrity stays consistent throughout each moment of our lives. As Christians, we should make a personal choice to honor moral, ethical and spiritual values and principles.

What actions come to mind when you hear that a man has compromised his integrity? Look at this from the reality that others are looking to you/at you to be a leader and an example of what being a Christian is.

- I've always said/thought that you shouldn't put your faith in me because I will most likely disappoint you in some way. The fact is that others will look up to you. Can you think of someone that has been a spiritual role model for you...your Paul?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neglecting to tell the truth/lie• Saying yes when you should have said no (no/yes)
Example? Have you ever done something that your heart wasn't in, or not done something you felt led to do and were convicted?• Promised to do or commit to something and not follow through (say you will pray for someone and don't)• Giving into temptation/doing something unethical• Not doing the 'right thing' in fear of confrontation or negative consequences.• Making everything more about 'me' and less about God (selfishness) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being an insecure leader/bending in tough circumstances. (Lean in)• Hiding things?• Not following through and failing to do what you say/promise |
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Why is maintaining your integrity so important?

- It defines who I am and also my testimony. As a Christian, my job is to tell others about Christ and how can I genuinely do that if I am a different person behind closed doors? None of us are perfect and we all have and will make mistakes, but we have to try and stay consistent throughout each moment of our lives and keep God first. Are we viewed and judged more intensely by society?

From the Watch section on page 77, did any of the statements stand out to you?

- It is when men decide that God will set the standard and it is that standard they will pursue that we become men of integrity, and we have the **impact** this society, our families and we ourselves so desperately need.
 - We first need to take a moment and decide if we are where we need/should be spiritually or at least willing to pray for God to use us before we can play a role in the '**change**' we have been discussing.
- Sometimes when you maintain integrity as a man, it will cost you?
 - How so? Friends? Relationships?

Page 78 – MAN UP

Daniel 6:10 – Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed (law that made it illegal to pray to God), he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

An important principle in this story is often overshadowed by the sensational aspect of God's power over lions – the principle of Daniel's consistent integrity. He **CHOSE** to serve God rather than human rulers and was hated by other government officials simply because he was good. **Consider yourself blessed if the only thing your enemies can say against you is that you're too faithful to God!**

Why did Daniel leave his windows open when he prayed rather than rationalizing that he should protect himself by closing them?

- In spite of the consequences, Daniel continued to obey God rather than people.

Describe some ways men may seek to rationalize our way out of complete obedience to God in the face of risk?

- We have been discussing our need for a church van for a long time. Has it been easier to just let the topic die or remain idle rather than pushing the issue? To be clear, what are some reasons we do need a van and how will that help build God's kingdom?
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What are some ways men might compromise their integrity in God's eyes? Identify ways we've dumbed down God's standard of biblical manhood and, as a result, are failing to make an **impact** on society.

- We have allowed God's standard of what it means to be a husband and a father to be lowered and as a result, our roles and influence in the church have been impacted. Thoughts?

How can believing God is your Source free you to make decisions rooted in biblical integrity?

- God has the final say and I need to trust in that. He owns the outcome and nothing should prevent me from fulfilling my duties/role in His kingdom.

What's one practical action you can take this week to align yourself more fully to God's standard of biblical manhood? It could be something you do at work, home, or in your personal spiritual development.

- To bring about change in myself and those around me? Read and study more; be consistent. Devote more time to prayer. Witness to and disciple others...

Someone Else's Obituary (JH)

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone Else did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, there was one name on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it."

Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else.

Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help, remember—we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

—Author Unknown

Parable of the Fishless Fishermen (JH)

The following story can be used in variety of venues to bring out the need for evangelism and the irony that for all of the talking people do about evangelism, few people actually do it.

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year these who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.

Continually they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better definitions of fishing. Further they said, "The fishing industry exists by fishing as fire exists by burning." They loved slogans such as "Fishing is the task of every fisherman," and "Every fisherman is a fisher," and "A fisherman's outpost for every fisherman's club." They sponsored special meetings called "Fishermen's Campaigns" and "The Month for Fishermen to Fish." They sponsored costly nationwide and worldwide congresses to discuss fishing to promote fishing and hear about all the ways of fishing such as the new fishing equipment, fish calls, and whether any new bait was discovered.

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called "Fishing Headquarters." The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do, however – they didn't fish. In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. All the fishermen seemed to agree that what is needed is a board which could challenge fishermen to be faithful in fishing. The board was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, and to promote the idea of fishing in faraway streams and lakes where many other fish of different colors lived.

Also the board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centers were built who's original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of fish, the nature of fish, where to find fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology. But the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, after tedious training, many were graduated and given fishing licenses. They were sent to do full-time fishing, some to distant waters that were filled with fish.

Some spent much study and travel to learn the history of fishing and to see faraway places where the founding fathers did great fishing in the centuries past. They lauded the faithful fishermen of years before who handed down the idea of fishing.

Further the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy day and night to produce materials solely devoted to fishing methods, equipment, and programs to arrange and to encourage meetings to talk about fishing. A speakers' bureau was also provided to schedule special speakers on the subject of fishing.

Many who felt the call to be fishermen responded. They were commissioned and sent to fish. But like fishermen back home they never fished. Like the fishermen back home they engaged in all kinds of other occupations. They built power plants to pump water for fish and tractors to plow new waterways. They made all kinds of equipment to travel here and there to look at fish hatcheries. Some also said they wanted to be part of the fishing party, but they felt called to furnish fishing equipment. Others felt their job was to relate to the fish in a good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen. Others felt that simply letting the fish know they were nice, land-loving neighbors and how loving and kind they were was enough.

After one stirring meeting on "The Necessity for Fishing," one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all

the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen's General Board as a person having considerable experience.

Now it's true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen's clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men?"

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who didn't catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if, year after year, he never catches a fish?

4 marks of spiritual revival: Lessons from the 'Jesus Revolution'

By [Greg Laurie](#)

What my generation called “The Jesus Movement,” TIME Magazine called “[The Jesus Revolution](#).” They were right. Revolution involves a dramatic change, a return. The same can be said of revival. Simply put, a Christian revival is a return to New Testament Christianity — the way we who follow Jesus should always live.

We need another Jesus revolution, and I believe we will see one in our lifetime. But to experience revival, we must first wake from our sleep.



So many in the church today are spiritually asleep. They are settling for a watered-down form of the Christian faith. This is not the form of the Christian faith that changed the world in the first century — the faith that changed families, countries and cultures. As evangelist and Bible scholar [G.Cambell Morgan](#) once stated: “Organized Christianity that fails to make a disturbance is dead.”

But God has laid out a plan for our redemption: “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” ([2 Chronicles 7:14](#)).

As someone who lived through the “The Jesus Movement” and came to faith as a result of it, I can recall several earmarks of that time:

There was a sense of expectancy at every gathering

No one was ever late for church. If you were, you wouldn't find a seat. We were there consistently and punctually, knowing that the Holy Spirit would show up.

The Word of God was always taught

This consistency and commitment to the Bible gave us stability as we learned from Scripture. Like sponges, we soaked up everything and looked forward to the teaching each week. Verse by verse and chapter by chapter, my mentor and friend, the late Pastor Chuck Smith, brought the pages of the Bible to life.

People were open to the work of the Holy Spirit

We used cutting-edge technology (i.e., cassette tapes!) to share our hope. We took chances — I preached for the first time at Pirate's Cove. (This may mean something to you if you're from California. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, Google it.) We were careful to base all we did on the unshakable foundation of Scripture. In fact, my life was changed by the “Jesus Freaks” who took the time to tell me the truth about [the hope I was searching for](#).

People invited non-believers to church and told them about Jesus

Because we believed Jesus could return at any time, we felt a sense of urgency in sharing his Good News. We invited people to church, and people came to know Jesus at every service. In [Acts 2:47](#), we learn that “the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” New believers were and still are the lifeblood of the Church. The

Christian Church today has a choice to either evangelize or fossilize. If a Church does not have a constant flow of new believers, it will grow stagnant.

Gen Z is the loneliest generation, even more, depressed and despondent [after a year of lockdowns](#). In April 2020, [incidents of self-harm among 13- to 18-year-olds rose 99.8%, overdoses rose 119%, generalized anxiety rose 94% and major depressive disorders rose 84%](#). Our basic human desires, such as connection, love, acceptance, peace, and safety, never change. Thankfully, neither does Jesus ([Hebrews 13:8](#)). But as Apostle Paul asks, “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” ([Romans 10:14](#)).

Despite all this, Millennials in the Church today tend to not share their faith with others. [One study](#) noted, “Almost half of Millennial Christians (47%) agree at least somewhat that it is wrong to share one’s personal beliefs with someone of a different faith in hopes that they will one day share the same faith.”

If we desire revival, then we need to encourage these younger generations to pick up the baton of the Gospel. We need to pray and prepare the ground for God to move by doing our part: teaching them, mentoring them, and loving them.

R.A. Torrey, founder of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (BIOLA), had a [prescription for revival](#). He advised:

“Let a few Christians (they need not be many) get thoroughly right with God. Let them commit themselves to pray for revival until God opens the windows of heaven and comes down. Let them put themselves at the disposal of God.”

The “Jesus Revolution” of my time followed this formula and changed the world.

So, I pray: Lord, do it again.

Lord, may it begin with us.