

The integrity of the leader in evangelising

At the end of the module, the participants will be able to:

- **Explain God's mandate of Integrity in our lives.**
- **Reaffirm the biblical concepts of integrity in terms of Power, Possessions & Passion.**
- **Identify and bridge the 'Integrity' gaps in one's own life.**
- **Prayerfully, draft an action plan to fulfil the mandate for Integrity and effective evangelism in one's life.**

Lesson 1

The overview of God's plan of reconciling all things to Himself – Col 1:19-20 / Eph 1:9-10

The grand arc of God's story is what we must always keep in mind. The Lord is restoring all things to Himself. Man has rebelled and gone away from God. Creation too is groaning because of man's rebellion and enmity against God. (Rom 8:19-22)

This task of reconciliation has been entrusted to His church. (II Cor 5:18-20) We are therefore Christ's ambassadors in this world pleading with people to be reconciled with God. Reconciliation is about Shalom which man and creation have lost, which God is longing for humanity to have in Christ. We are those bridges and stepping stones for people to cross over and have the fullness of life.

What is Integrity?

Integrity is wholeness, completeness, and oneness – Wholeness is wholesomeness in all aspects. Completeness is complete development and oneness comes from the root word integer, a complete unbroken unit.

We are to be people of Integrity for the task upon us is reconciling a lost world to God.

Psychologist view of the human personality

Psychologists view the human personality to be like an iceberg. The major portion of our personality (90%) is below the surface and not visible to the outside world. The real person is below and that is where Integrity needs to take place.

God sees our inner man

Nothing is hidden from God's sight. All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Heb 4:12-13) God sees our hearts and we are acceptable to Him depending on who we are in our hearts. (I Sam 16:7). God tests the motives of our hearts and we are to seek Him at the level of our motives. (I Chron 28:9/ Jer 17:10)

This is where we must seek God to build us in our integrity before Him.

How do we take steps to embrace Biblical Integrity?

The Lord Jesus gave us a very clear and definite roadmap to work on our integrity according to His expectations of us. This is seen in Mark 12:29-31 / Matt 22:37-40 / Lk 10:27. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

How do we love God?

The greatest commandment is calling us to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbour as ourselves. To love God is to be submitted to His will. We cannot claim to love God and do our own will. (John 14:15)

To love God is also to trust God. Without trusting God, we cannot please God. (Heb 11:6)

So, loving God consists of submission to His will and trust in Him. We are to love God in the four areas of heart, soul, mind and strength.

Heart

The heart is about the motives of our hearts. God sees not only our thoughts but also the motives or intentions behind our thoughts. This is where the Lord examines us. God knows our motives. At the level of our motives do we seek to walk with God? Or are our motives something else?

Soul

The soul relates to the egoistic part of the human personality. I want, I think, I feel. When God created man, He created man out of dust and His breath, which is the Spirit of God. (Job 33:4). Matter and Spirit need to be in union for us to be living beings or living souls. For the matter and Spirit of God to be in union, there needs to be submission of our will to God's will. This is when we are alive. When our matter refuses to be surrendered and led by the Spirit of God, we die. Our entire life is the surrender of our will to God's will, willingly.

Mind

The mind is our window to life. It is our perspective or our worldview. Our mind is driven by the flesh. For our minds to be renewed, we must be led by the Spirit. We must have a Holy Spirit-controlled and directed mind. (Rom 8:5-6/ 12:2)

Strength

Our strength relates to our potential, gifts, talents, abilities and resources. These need to be entirely surrendered to God. We need to be a living sacrifice to God. (Rom 12:1)

This is what it means to love God.

The other side of the first commandment is to love our neighbour as ourselves. Loving people is to serve people. (Gal 5:13-14). To serve people is to become devoid of our self-centredness. The ego has to go to the cross. There we die with Christ and it is His life in us that makes us to be those who serve. We will take this up when we study the power of powerlessness.

Why is integrity important for evangelism?

This is a question that will have many answers. We stand before God. God is holy and He is raising us to be a people who will offer Him our offering of righteousness. Evangelism is an outflow of our stand before God.

Paul's life journey

At the end of his life, Paul calls himself as the chief of sinners. This is strange indeed. He was a spiritual giant but how could he call himself as the chief of sinners? This is because he saw himself always before God who is holy. It was God who was moulding and shaping him to reflect His character. He explains this experience in I Tim 1:15-16.

He is able to say that the change that God brought about in his life was the bridge that enabled many others to believe in Jesus and enter eternal life. The application for us is that if we allow God to shape

us into His character (Integrity) then we will be bridges for others to enter eternal life. If we are not letting God shape us into His character, then our lives will be a stumbling block for others to enter eternal life. Therefore, we have two options. We can be stepping stones or stumbling blocks. We must choose to be bridges for the Gospel.

We are the message. We call ourselves messengers of the Gospel, which is true, but we are more than messengers, we are the message.

The danger of Christian activity without Integrity

We may get involved in Christian activity but have not surrendered to God's will. This is dangerous. The Lord will tell us that He never knew us. (Matt 7:21-23)