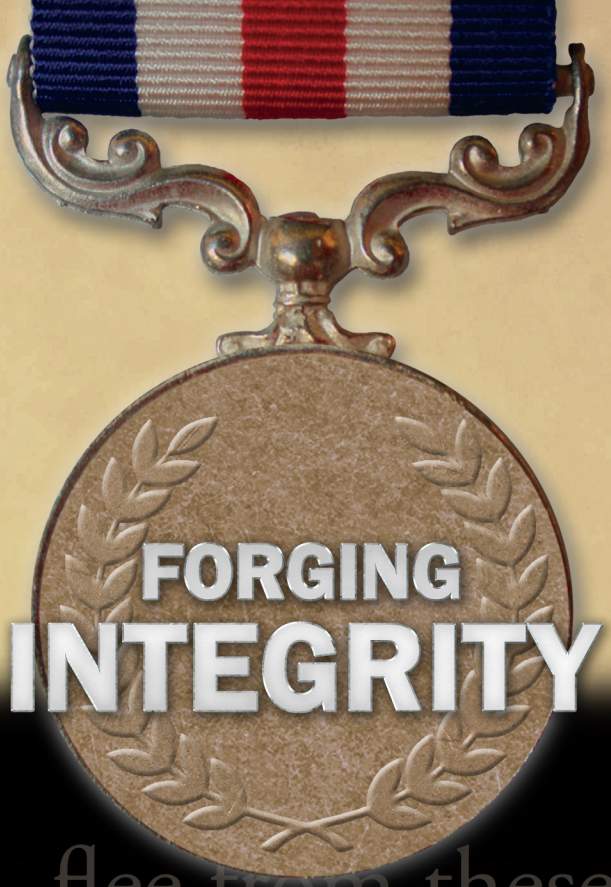
THE ARMORY

BASIC TRAINING FOR LIFE



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Forging Character SERIES

A MINISTRY OF MORRIS HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

INITIAL DISCUSSION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE INTEGRITY?

Your Integrity is Fragile

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (1 Corinthians 10:12)

1. **Your integrity is fragile—one wrong word, action, or misstep can cause it to shatter completely.**

*Follow God's example...and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us...But among you, there must not be **even a hint** of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. (Ephesians 5:1-4)*

- When you experience temptation, do you consider how giving in will impact your integrity? Is your integrity no match for your unhealthy desires?

2. **Once integrity is lost, it is hard to get back.** Why?

Notes:

3. **Making a positive impact in your home, on the job, and in your community requires strong personal integrity.** Is it more important to know you have integrity or for others to know you have it? Are both equally important? Explain.

Notes:

Guard Your Integrity

...but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:14-15)

1. Your mind is like the gear shifter in your car. You must decide what gear a particular situation calls for. You can choose to go forward, backward, and how fast to go in either direction. You can even chose to stay in neutral if overcoming an obstacle calls for it. Think of a situation where the feeling of "losing your mind" resulted in failure. What might you have done differently in order to safeguard your integrity?

Notes:

2. Making a plan is easy. Living out that plan is much harder. A football coach can strategize all day long. But doing so will not guarantee victory. While the team may perform each play flawlessly, neither the coach nor the players can anticipate the opposing team's every move.. Even though you cannot control other people, what is your responsibility? Is it their integrity at stake or yours?

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. (Philippians 4:8)

Live Life Differently

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:22)

1. **As you go about your daily routine, remind yourself that "It is Written."** For example, love your neighbor as yourself, don't return evil for evil, and consider others more important that yourself.

2. **Avoid areas of temptation and learn to follow God's commands more closely.**

If you do not kill the sin in you, the sin in you will kill you. (John Owens)

3. **The more sound choices you make, the greater the value your integrity will be.** This value affects your relationships with family, friends, and with Christ. It also impacts the fundamental acceptance of yourself. Where do you need to rebuild your integrity?

4. **The Christian's Code says, *"No matter what situation I am in, I will never do anything for pleasure, profit, or personal safety that will disgrace my Christ, my family, or my church."***

Weekly Challenge

If you feel you have lost your integrity, know that you have the power to get it back. The process of rebuilding trust that is lost may cause some discomfort. But your your integrity is worth it!