



***SESSION 1 — The Commitment of a Godly Man:  
Committed to Christian Character  
Psalm 24:1-5  
- Pastor Phelps -***

In 1988, Warren Wiersbe authored a book appropriately entitled, “The Integrity Crisis.” As the world of televangelism was rocked by salacious scandals, Wiersbe observed, “Evangelical Christians today are not like a group of schoolchildren, standing around blushing because we were caught breaking the rules. We are more like a defeated army, naked before our enemies, and unable to fight back because they have made a frightening discovery: the church is lacking \_\_\_\_\_!”

While Wiersbe focused on men in ministry, the truth is, scandal is everywhere. In a Pacesetters’ survey over 200 professionals from various companies across a broad spectrum from around the world, the simple question was posed: “Has integrity stayed the same, increased, or decreased over the past ten years?” Over \_\_\_\_\_% of the group answered that integrity has “decreased.”

Just look at the headlines! Integrity, once applauded as prerequisite to positions of power, has fallen on hard times. Character has been compromised at such high levels that our culture is desensitized. A new commitment to Christian character is needed!

In Psalm 24:3, David asks, “Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord?” The answer quickly follows, “He that hath clean hands and a pure heart.” God’s Word promises promotion to men of integrity.

Let’s look at four fences that must be maintained if we would be men of integrity.

## SELF-MASTERY

“He who rules within himself and rules his passions, desires, and fears is more than a King!” (Milton) Noble character begins with self-mastery. The Spirit of God reveals this truth in I Corinthians 9:24-27. Those who would be marked as men of integrity are in a daily battle with \_\_\_\_\_.

Self-mastery requires putting fact above \_\_\_\_\_.

As athletes know training to be necessary for success (v. 27), Christians who exhibit character must train themselves in the Word (Heb. 5:12-14; II Tim. 2:15). The biggest battle the believer faces is the battle that wages within.

Self-mastery is often derided as \_\_\_\_\_. Such thinking is not only shallow – it is also dangerous. Those who believe self-mastery to be legalistic are on a trajectory of tragedy. Without self-mastery there can be no real spiritual success.

1. Self-mastery requires \_\_\_\_\_ - John 15:5; Phil. 4:13.
2. Self-mastery requires \_\_\_\_\_ holy habits. The Health Research Center of the UK says that it takes

days to establish a habit. Here are some habits that ought to be evident in the life of a Christian:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 16:1f; Heb. 10:25).  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 1; Ps. 119:9-11)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 6:18).  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 6:19).

Building new habits that evidence self-mastery will require you to take some practical steps:

1. Do something that you don't want to do –
2. Deprive yourself of something that you want –
3. Demand more of yourself than you think possible –

## CHASTITY

Chastity means to be sexually pure by avoiding sexual relationships outside of marriage and immoral sexual practices. A tsunami of sexual perversity has swept over our nation and many lives have been destroyed (I Cor. 6:18). When Ashley Madison's site was hacked, the hearts of many were revealed. What will be revealed when the Lord opens His books (Rv. 20:12)?

Those who would live lives of integrity understand the danger of sexual sins.

Sexual sin is a \_\_\_\_\_ sin (I Cor. 6:18). Consider for a moment the spiritual destruction that is brought about by sexual sins:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:27).

2. Distraction (I Cor. 7:25) – Studies indicate that the average man has \_\_\_\_\_ sexual fantasies a day. Each of these fantasies is a potential sin and all of these fantasies can be distracting.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (I Thes. 4:1-7).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (I Tim. 3:2)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (I Cor. 6:9; Eph. 5:5).

Job knew that protecting his chastity meant protecting his thoughts and that protecting his thoughts began by protecting his \_\_\_\_\_ (Job 31:1). Here are some commitments that need to be considered by kept who would protect their chastity:

- Guard you \_\_\_\_\_ - Job 31:1
- Guard your \_\_\_\_\_ - Psalm 1

## HONESTY

Christians of character are \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:25). Lying and cheating should have no part in the life of the believer who knows the truth (John 14:6). Those who would know the power of fellowship with God must tell the truth (Ps. 15). What are some common reasons we resort to lies?

## DEPENDIBILITY

Those who would walk in integrity are dependable! Their word is their \_\_\_\_\_ bond and \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility is their \_\_\_\_\_!