

A Life of Integrity

What the World Hungers for

Pastor Arnold Wong

The world is hungering for people of integrity. While the world says it wants people of integrity, scandals continue to abound. It seems like what the world hungers for and what the world will settle for are totally different.

Therefore, is it possible to be a person of integrity in the fast and loose world we live in today? What will it take for a man or woman to live a holy life in an unholy world? What are the costs? What are the rewards?

What is integrity? The dictionary defines it as 'The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles'. References that offer synonyms for integrity list such words as honesty, incorruptness, purity, honour, righteousness, faithfulness and trustworthiness. It is clear that integrity is a character virtue that involves being honest, upright, and incorruptible. We look for and hope for this quality in the people we deal with on every level of life.

Students of this life say it is "impossible and impractical to live this way". We are told to get our "heads out of the sky and feet on the ground". They quickly warn us that, "such people will not get far in this world". But God does not hold in high regard the way in which the world expects a person to live. We are instructed in Col. 1:10, "...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects".

Has anyone ever lived a successful life of integrity? Yes, and his name is Daniel.

Because of his formidable talents and gifts, he was taken captive and trained to serve the kings of conquering empires, Dan. 1:4, 17, and 19.

Daniel was clearly a person of integrity. Daniel was true to God. Very early in his life he determined not even to violate God's food and drink commandments, Dan. 1:8. Later in his life he continued to pray to God even though the King signed a law prohibiting it, Dan. 6:7. Daniel was blameless & incorruptible. He was neither negligent in his work nor corrupt in his dealings, Dan. 6:4. Daniel was victorious over his enemies. Read about his lion's den experience in Dan. 6:23-28. Daniel stood his ground, thereby honouring God and was promoted, Dan. 2:46-48; 6:25-28.

A believer can live a life of integrity. Dare to be a Daniel in a slippery slope world. All you can manage is the quality of your character, let God manage your success.

The legendary college basketball coach John Wooden taught his players, "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

May we live as the writer of Psalm 15:1-2 discovered, "O Lord, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart." **Ω**

Grace News

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Editorial

Walking the Talk

In this issue of Grace News we start a new theme examining some important character qualities, and we kick off by having a good look at integrity: what it is, and how it can be displayed in different areas of our lives. On page 1 Pastor Arnold reminds us that integrity should be a distinguishing quality of Christians in a 'slippery slope world', and points to the example of Daniel as someone who made no compromises in his faith and was rewarded for his honesty.

We then take a look at three specific areas where we sometimes find it difficult to display integrity as we should, namely, in our relationships, in the workplace, and when we are students. Most of us will be able to identify with at least one of these situations, if not more!

Children are not forgotten in this issue either - we have a special kids page where children can learn about integrity in a way that is relevant to them. They can also have fun doing a wordsearch puzzle (open to those young at heart as well!). To complete the theme we have a book review of a book that can help us in our quest to live a life of integrity (see page 8).

There is plenty to chew over in this issue: our hope is that you will find something to help you in your walk with God.

In His name,

The Editorial Team

Learn & Live: Adult Bible Class

Seah Yen Goon

It took a group of members led by Pastor Arnold to brainstorm and come up with the goal and purpose of the Adult Bible Class, which is: Challenging people to change their world by living Biblical truths daily.

Adult Bible Class is an updated and expanded version of the Grace Bible Fellowship which has had many successful runs in the past years. The new Bible classes are designed to provide choices so that more people – the young and not so young adults – are encouraged to attend Sunday classes.

The curriculum is structured to cover five main components. These are: Fundamentals of the Gospel, Books of the Bible, Christian Doctrines, Christian Living and Engaging the World. Our three pastors Bobby, Eugene and Oliver, and their respective teams, are leading the three classes on three different tracks covering Christian Living, Two Ways To Live and God's Story. Participants can choose to attend any of these tracks based on their spiritual needs.

Since classes started in February, they have been well attended. The classes provide a conducive environment for teaching, interactive learning, inter-generational discussion, and Q&A sessions on issues that confront our faith and our walk in the Lord. Pastor Eugene Low uses the analogy of a tree. Before we can live Biblically, our minds must be nourished with God's Word, then we will be able to grow to produce good fruit.

We are called to "live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work and

growing in the knowledge of God" Colossians 1:10. To achieve it, Pastor Oliver so succinctly summarises: Head, Heart, Hands. If you are not sure what that means, attend the Bible classes. You will learn, you will be challenged, you will change, and you will live. Glory be to God. **Ω**



Integrity for Students

Fidelia Kuek

Why is integrity one of the core values emphasised in many schools today? With pop culture permeating the minds of the younger generation at an exponential rate, there is an urgent need to intervene.

Integrity is adherence to moral principles or honesty. However, students today might not even have strong foundational values and beliefs to adhere to; or they may simply be unaware of the consequences of their actions and thus have an 'I can get away with it' mentality.

In school, there are various areas in which students need to be taught the importance of integrity. Suitable role models can also help to provide a positive example of how to practise integrity. One of these areas is certainly academics. As the pressure to attain excellence increases, coupled with the diminishing sense of integrity, students are inclined to commit acts of academic dishonesty. This occurs not only in tests and exams, but also in the form of plagiarism in papers or projects. Computers and the Internet have made it easy for students to do so. Educating

them in this area is thus crucial. When approached, many students say that their need to attain good grades is not just due to competition, but also to gain approval from parents (even teachers). This hints at a deeper underlying problem of low self-esteem that needs to be addressed.

Another area would be in the sporting arena. Many students are blinded by the need to win. Again, the motivation is not merely for the glory of winning, but also because through winning, students wish to garner approval of their coaches and parents.

Compromising of integrity can also be seen in their speech, which is evident in online platforms like Facebook or blogs. Students' comments on controversial issues or even their reflections indicate the erosion of moral principles.

Schools can only do so much to instill integrity in the young, and educate them in the various areas. It is still the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child is morally upright – grounded on God's Word and ways. Ω



Rachel Wong

Do you know what '**INTEGRITY**' means? It sounds like a difficult word, but all it means really is '**HONESTY**'. Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is watching, even if it is difficult or it means you have to give up something you want.

What if you break something that **BELONGS** to your brother or sister and then don't own up? If your **PARENTS** ask whether you did it, maybe you even have to tell a lie that it wasn't you. If they believe you, you have got away with it! But think again: have you really 'got away with it'? Let's look at what the Bible says:

"The man of integrity walks **SECURELY**, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out." (Proverbs 10:9)

You may think no one was watching, but God was watching! God knows what you did, and you know what you did, and your feelings of guilt will make you uncomfortable. This is because God has given you a **CONSCIENCE** to help you feel bad when you do something wrong. But when you have integrity you will be honest all the time and will not have to feel sorry for letting yourself down, and for letting God down as well. **PRAY** and ask God to help you to have integrity every day. Ω

WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Try to find these words in the puzzle below.

BELIEVE	WATCHING
INTEGRITY	BAD
HONESTY	GUILT
RIGHT	BIBLE
GOD	CROOKED
SORRY	LIE

G	N	I	H	C	T	A	W	I
B	E	L	I	E	V	E	N	B
A	H	O	N	E	S	T	Y	K
B	R	E	I	L	E	L	T	N
S	I	D	O	G	R	I	U	O
O	G	B	R	C	B	U	S	D
R	H	I	L	A	S	G	L	H
R	T	F	D	E	C	G	I	W
Y	V	C	R	O	O	K	E	D

Integrity at the Workplace, ***Walking Straight in a Crooked World***

Peter Ho Lick

It is a jungle out there! At the workplace, we are often faced with situations of compromise and temptation. Although we are living and working in a secular world, God should not be left out of the picture.

There are rules, codes of ethics and by-laws that corporations and societies have imposed for us to follow. Even if it is burdensome

and onerous at times, these rules are installed for good reasons, one of which is to help us maintain our integrity in business dealings. We are also reminded to submit to governance and authorities as prescribed in Scripture (Romans 13:1).

As Christians, our own integrity should be motivated by a desire to live as God prescribes, and this standard is above those established at the workplace and in society. We are to apply God's wisdom and discernment, especially in the grey areas. Only then will our integrity be upheld. Trust from our bosses, co-workers, clients and business associates can be built up only if there is integrity.

We are always tempted to make more with less, and although nobody may be looking when we compromise our integrity, the truth will always come into light. We have seen countless notable cases such as Nick Leeson (Barings), Jeffrey Skilling (Enron) and recently Bernard Madoff (Ponzi scheme).

On the practical side of things, one helpful principle is that 'we must say what we mean, and do what we say'. We are called to be salt and light of this world, and being consistent in our speech and manner is one way to prove that we are people of our word.

Our integrity stems primarily from our value system. A large part of it is imparted during our childhood years and in school. More importantly, the knowledge and true understanding of God's precepts should be the absolute standard of ethics on which our integrity should be built.

We have to walk straight in a crooked world with the wisdom from Proverbs 3:5-6. **Ω**

Relationships are the key to life. Life without meaningful relationships can be likened to a day without sunshine. But meaningful relationships have to be built on timeless virtues like integrity. Relationships that are not built on honesty are destined to self-destruct over time. That is why it is so important to build relationships on a sturdy foundation of trustworthiness, faithfulness, and purity.

Integrity really starts with our relationship to God. We are called to be imitators of God, Eph. 5:1, conforming ourselves into the image of Christ, Rom. 8:29. God wants us to live a Spirit-filled life that is Christ-like in character.

Integrity in

How does all this show up in other key relationships? When our daughters asked our advice about choosing a mate, we shared with them this principle: character over chemistry. We hoped they would seek out a person with Godly character. Chemistry is important, but character is more important. In the Book of Ruth, this principle is displayed in the lives of Ruth and Boaz. Both reflected Godly character in their conduct. Godly character will serve as a strong foundation on which to build a strong marriage.

Integrity plays an important role in marriage. In Eph. 4:15, believers should be known for "...speaking the truth in love". Speaking the truth can be hard at times, but nevertheless we are exhorted to do so. But, notice that the verse also says, "...in love". This means being humble, gentle, and patient, Eph. 4:2-3, and being wise in our choice of words, Eph. 4:29. Always seek to help, rather than to hurt another person.

Husbands and wives should be able to trust what one another says and why they said it. When there is trust between spouses, husband and wife

Relationships

are able to grow and flourish instead of wilt and die. Love grows best in a soil that is fortified by honesty and love. Spouses will tend to share, listen, care, and pray together in a healthy environment like this. It will afford us the opportunity to experience what is described in Proverbs 27:15, "Iron sharpens iron. So one man sharpens another."

Be all that God wants you to be – be a person of integrity. Seek people of integrity and Godly character to be your closest confidants.

So, whether it is in our relationships with one another or in regards to relationships with spouses, or God, integrity plays a major role. **Ω**

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

INSTALLATION OF ELDERS, 30 JANUARY 2011

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour..." 1Timothy 5:17



Our new elders (L-R): Peter Ho Lick, Tan Chong Tien, Jonathan Yao.

"To me this eldership is an exercise in learning to love God more as I learn to see the needs of the members of the church and try to serve them with love." – Tan Chong Tien

"I deeply appreciate all the elders who exemplify unity in the spirit and one heart in service – no 'turf' or department to champion, but focus on how best to minister, bless, and lead." – Jonathan Yao

"It is because of what the church meant to Christ, and that His presence is at the centre of GBC, that I gladly avail myself to serve despite my inadequacies." – Peter Ho Lick



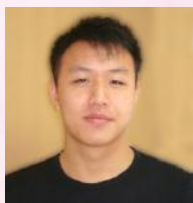
The church leadership pray over the new elders.

YOUTH – SPEED BOWLING



Some of our youths took time out to fellowship and bowl.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

- Ngiam Xing Yi
- Darius Teo
- Tiffany Tan
- Daisy Khoo
- Gina Heng
- Lir Hui Jing
- Huang Wei Quan

BAPTISMS, 13 MARCH 2011



TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP 3 APRIL 2011

We also rejoice as we receive
LEE SIANG TECK
into our church family
through transfer of
membership.

MISSION TRIP TO KATHY'S HOME, PUA, THAILAND 10-14 MARCH 2011



LADIES NETWORK PERANAKAN LUNCH, 19 MARCH 2011



FROM TOP:

- The Ladies Ministry enjoys fellowship over a delicious Peranakan lunch with sharing from Lilian and Georgina on God's goodness in their lives.
- The Ladies Ministry gives thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness and goodness to their ministry and for the sumptuous Peranakan meal ahead.

FROM TOP:

- Girls at Kathy's Home studying for on-going exams.
- Part of the GBC team sharing a meal with the family of a village church elder during a village visit.
- Mak introducing a 'new' boy (first year in Kathy's Home) to the team and requesting prayer for him and a few others who are new believers.

A Life of Integrity

Howard Hendricks (General Editor), Published by Questar Pub, Inc, 1997

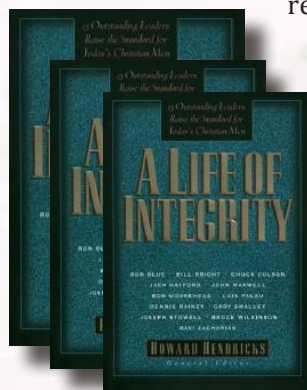
reviewed by Teoh Swee Hin

Our society has witnessed many poor role models publicised through the media. Comparatively, articles that talk about integrity are much less newsworthy. But my search for role models came to an end when I stumbled on the book, *A Life of Integrity*, given to me a long time ago. Alas, I tucked it away in an obscure corner of my suitcase six years ago, not realising what a gem I had, and only rediscovered it recently.

Integrity is derived from the Latin word 'integer' which means whole and complete. In ethics this translates to virtuous living and truthful in every sense. The opposite is dishonesty and hypocrisy. Integrity is a character quality; it is caught more than taught. We often need someone to motivate us, show us the 'how to' in difficult situations and keep us accountable. This book is just this: the inspiring life testimonies of 13 outstanding leaders such as

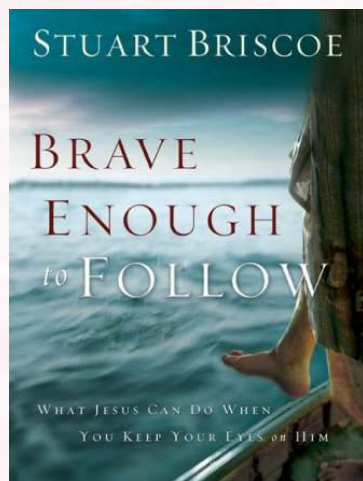
Luis Palau, Ravi Zacharias, Bill Bright, Bruce Wilkerson, Ron Blue, Chuck Colson, Howard Hendricks and many more. Topics covered include 'Committed to Marriage', 'Keeping an Open Hand', 'Honoring Others', and 'Leaving a Legacy': all very relevant to our lives. The book keeps the reader fixed on the cross and points him back to scripture, imbibing him with a sense of relief knowing that there are Godly people to show us the way. This book is the kind of book I would buy to give those around me, knowing we all need positive influence and proof that we can be in this world, but not of it.

The book is easy to read as each chapter is complete and can be finished in 30 minutes. Don't rush. Ponder and ask the Lord to show you the 'how to' in leading a life of integrity. Ω



Missions Month

NTM Singapore Missions Conference 19 – 21 May 2011 In partnership with Grace Baptist Church



"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" Matthew 4: 19
Simon Peter was an ordinary man of no social standing. And yet Jesus chose him to be the "rock" upon which the church would be built. This apparent incongruity begs the question, What does Christ see in you?

Join Stuart Briscoe as he expounds on Matthew 4:19 and explore how God wants to use your potential just as He used Peter's. Over his four talks, he will challenge you to:

- Accept Jesus' invitation to Come
- Be Committed to Follow
- Be assured of His promise to Make
- Our purpose to be Fishers of Men

19 May 2011 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
20 May 2011 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
21 May 2011 2:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Venue: Grace Baptist Church
17 Mattar Road
Singapore 387722

**LOOK OUT FOR
REGISTRATION
DETAILS**

About the Speakers



Stuart Briscoe graduated from high school at the age of 17, and promptly embarked on a career in banking. At the same time, he started to preach. In 1959, he and his wife, Jill, a school teacher, left the business world to share in the ministry of the Torchbearers. In 1970, Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin, asked Stuart to be their pastor. The church has since grown to a weekly attendance of more than 7,000 and has planted eight sister churches in the Milwaukee area. Elmbrook's TV and radio ministries—Telling the Truth—featuring Stuart and Jill are broadcast widely while his extensive video and audio tapes and more than 40 books extend his ministry. After 30 years as senior pastor at Elmbrook Church, Stuart has stepped down and he and Jill have assumed the roles of Ministers-at-Large on Elmbrook's church staff.



Dr Tan Lai Yong graduated from National University of Singapore in 1985. In 1996, together with his wife and 1-year old daughter, he moved to Yunnan in SW China, where he ran a village doctors training program. Later, his family of 4 moved to Kunming, where he taught in the Kunming Medical University and also led the medical work in Bless China International (a Yunnan based NGO). For his contribution to Yunnan, he received many awards, among them China National Day Friendship Award for Foreign Experts (2004), the Yunnan TV Good Citizen of Kunming Award (2007) and was featured in Channel News Asia as one of the "Asians of Asia 2009". He has also published a few books, such as *Biting The Bamboo* and *Two Ears But Only One Mouth*.



Scott Meyer met his wife Rachel at a Christian summer camp. He married her 4 years later in 1989. They have six children, three girls and three boys. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Intercultural Ministries. Scott and Rachel have worked with NTM in Sulawesi, Indonesia since 1993. Scott has served in various areas of support ministry and currently is part of the leadership team with the role of regional administrator. He is fluent in Indonesian and has spoken at various local churches and is also part of a local church plant team in his city in Sulawesi.



Calvin Tan is an Elder from Bangsar Gospel Centre, Kuala Lumpur and Chairman of the NTM Board in Malaysia. He was with OM for a number of years before joining NTM. Calvin shared that the Lord has put a message on his heart about "Laying Up Your Treasures in Heaven" and today he goes about encouraging Christians to lay their treasures in heaven. He is active in raising funds for needy Indonesian missionaries.



Bill Davis met his wife Donna in a church youth group and got married in 1976. They have two grown daughters, one grandson and one grand daughter. After NTBI training and one year on NTBI staff, Bill and Donna went to the Philippines in 1981 and worked in S.W. Palawano tribe. They did church planting, medical work and training medical workers, translation and consultant work (language, translation, church planting). Bill has a BA in linguistics & Anthropology from SDSU and did postgraduate work in linguistics. Donna has a BA in psychology UCSD and did postgraduate work in Marriage and Family Therapy.



Jun Fabra and his wife Amy, together with their three children served the Lord among the Kankanaey tribes in Northern Luzon for 16 years before becoming missionaries for the Ayta tribe in Central Luzon. Jun was the NTM Philippines (NTMPI) Church Planting Consultant and Director before taking up the position as NTMPI Training Director. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of NTMPI.