

## **10X Character**

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10X

**Text: Proverbs 11:3 (NKJV & AMP, NLT)**

The world we live in champions the idea of **being** a character over actually **having** character.

~ Charisma can make people stand out for a moment, but character sets a person apart for a lifetime.

Those who are 10X understand that they are to have and live the type of life that is exemplified by **Jesus**.

Character can be summed up in one word - **integrity**. The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness, honest, truthful, trust-worthy, moral courage. A clear sense of **right** and **wrong**, and what is good and evil. It is consistent behavior and belief whether people are watching or in private.

People of integrity believe in a standard that is **higher** than themselves and hold themselves to it. For those who are 10X, that standard is the Word of God and Jesus himself.

Integrity recognizes the difference in competence and compromise. It understands that the ends do not always justify the **means**. Character is the **will** to do what is right when it is right, even when it is hard or unpopular. Those who are 10X understand that integrity is valued in people over intelligence, competency or being inspiring.

10X people live **above** reproach (blame, shame, or criticism), accusation, or suspicion. This doesn't mean that evil people or those with ulterior motives won't level these things against you or accuse you. Integrity means that when people do, they will be the ones that look foolish because your character is ironclad.

### **Quotes on Integrity** –

- ~ You build trust with others each time you choose integrity over image, truth over convenience, or honor over personal gain.
- ~ Image is what people think we are. Integrity is what we really are.
- ~ Integrity is important in building relationships. And is the foundation upon which many other qualities for success are built, such as respect, dignity, and trust.
- ~ We cannot consistently behave in a way that is inconsistent with our beliefs.
- ~ Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.”
- ~ Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.”
- ~ Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

- ~ If you have integrity nothing else matters. If you do not have integrity, nothing else matters.
- ~ Goodness is about character - integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage, and the like. More than anything else, it is about how we treat other people.
- ~ One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to compromise.

### Characteristics and Qualities of those with character.

- ❖ **Honesty** - These are people who live in and tell the truth. Those who are honest never **try** to be honest, they just are. Today people want to try and blur the truth. Those who are honest believe in **absolutes**. They do not live in the gray areas. Things are what they are not what we want them to be. Honesty deals with transparency, clearness and conciseness. Genuine integrity excludes lying or any sort of deception. Integrity understands that “half a fact is a whole lie”.  
Honesty means telling the **truth**, integrity involves speaking the truth with love. Those who are honest say what they mean and mean what they say. Honesty means owning up to mistakes, integrity means working to correct those mistakes. Honesty means correcting others when they make incorrect decisions. It means not taking credit for what someone else has done. Honesty and integrity are really found in the **small** things done well or in the things people overlook. (like when we are given too much change back at the store and we return it)  
**Prov. 20:6-7, Prov. 12:22, Prov. 19:1, Prov. 10:9, Prov. 28:6, Psalm 51:6, Prov. 21:3 (NLT), Prov. 4:25-27 (AMP)**
- ❖ **Dependability** - The greatest ability anyone can have. There is no substitute for consistency. Consistency is not boring, it is stability, rock solid and the same. Sameness is good. It is reliability. Sameness is one of the attributes of God Himself. **Malachi 3:6, Numbers 23:19, Isaiah 40:8, Hebrews 13:8** Those with integrity can be counted on day in and day out. They will be where they are expected, doing what is expected in the way that it is expected to be done.  
These people can be expected to **keep** their word. Their word is their bond. If they say they will do something they will do it and if they refuse to do something they cannot be persuaded to go back on their word. **Matthew 5:37** These are people you can rely on in times of trouble or crisis. **Proverbs 25:19**  
People of integrity are dependable because they are **stable**. They are not always tossed about by different ideas or struggle with doubt. **James 1:8, Ephesians 4:14**
- ❖ **Convictions** - Those with integrity have a strong moral compass. They believe in right and wrong, and they stand for the right. **Isaiah 5:20** Because they have a strong moral compass, they always know the direction that they should be going. **Proverbs 11:3** Those with integrity have something that is found right in the word integrity - **grit**. They have the moral determination and stamina to do what is right because it is right. Those with integrity refuse to compromise truth on the altar of convenience.

- ❖ **Politeness** - The Bible tells us that love is not rude. At the heart of integrity is truly caring for and about people. Integrity treats people as **valuable** and always gives respect and love. Integrity is patient and it is **kind**. **Proverbs 19:22** Politeness should never be confused with **weakness**. As a matter of fact, it takes more strength and integrity to respond and treat people with kindness than it does with contempt, ignorance or indifference. Integrity always takes the **high** road and refuses to go low just because of someone else's behavior or attitude. We must never confuse respectability with integrity – many people can put on the “**air**” of respectability. This can be replicated in dress, speech and masked with position, power and wealth. Integrity is what you are left with when all the masks come off.

### Things to understand about character.

How a person deals with the circumstances of life will tell you many things about a person's character. Integrity is when what you think, say, and do are all in alignment. They are integrated. Those who are 10X can expect that their integrity will be **tested** in several ways. When we are at our highest and when we are at our lowest. In the areas of money, freedom, position, power, recognition (fame), being overlooked and pleasure.

- 1) Crisis and difficulty don't necessarily make character, but it certainly does **reveal** it. Adversity is a crossroads that makes a person choose certain paths, character, or compromise. You are who you are before life's difficulties, and they will either leave you stronger or weaker. Every time you choose character you grow stronger even if the choice brings negative consequences.
- 2) Character is more than **talk**. **Proverbs 20:6-7** Anyone can talk a good game. But integrity means that your talk and your walk (actions) line up. Our actions are the true indicator of our character. Our character determines who we are, but before that, Whose we are will determine **who** we are. **Galatians 2:20-21** You can never separate a person's actions from their character. Those who are 10X understand that.
- 3) Talent is a gift, but character is a **choice**. There are many things that we do not have control of in our lives. We don't get to choose our parents. We don't choose the social economic circumstances we are born into. We don't get to pick our talents, abilities or our IQ. We do get to choose our character. We actually **create** it every time we make a choice. Do we pay the price or take short cuts? Do we tell the truth or lie or twist things to our advantage? Do we dig in or cop out?
- 4) True character and integrity brings **favor** with people and with God. True respect is given to those who not only accomplish things but those who can be trusted.
- 5) No one can rise above the **limitations** of their character. All of us know of people of great talent and ability who fall apart once they reach a certain level of success. All of us need something to stand on that is greater than our success or failure – that is character. Most people are challenged by four A's – **Arrogance** (pride), feelings of **Aloneness**, **Adventure** seeking (boredom), or **Adultery**.  
**Proverbs 16:18, Prov. 6:25-29, Prov. 7:24-27**

- 6) Character is a matter of the will. It requires the will to make tough decisions that sometimes run contrary to emotion, intuition, economics, current trends, popular opinion and, in the estimation of some, common sense. Having the will to do what is right requires that you determine what is right before the struggle to do what is right ensues. Character is about pre-decisions. Those who are 10X acknowledge a standard of right and wrong that exists independent of their emotions, desires or experiences.

Those who are committed to maintaining their character will often say no to what many would perceive as the opportunity of a lifetime. The willingness to say “No” is what sets those who are 10X apart from the pack. Perfect examples of this is Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These men walked in moral authority and because of that God and man gave them positions of authority. We will never need to violate the principles of God to maintain the blessing of God. These men refused to bow to a visible king because they served THE INVISIBLE KING. **Daniel 3:16-18**

There will always be visible kings who claim to control our destiny and outcomes. Following them will seem prudent and responsible. Those who are 10X choose character in the mist of complication. Character makes complicated things simpler not easier.  
**Psalm 19:7-11**

Moral authority is the credibility you earn while walking in integrity. It is the relationship people see between what we say, we believe and how we live. They see an alignment between conviction, action, belief and behavior. This allows our life to be persuasive to others. Those with moral authority never abandon the convictions and standards that have always been a part of their moral compass (The Word and ways of God). These Hebrew men never forgot the source of who they were. In refusing to compromise, these men gained moral authority and influence with a king. **Daniel 3:28-30**

There will come a time when our character and convictions are tested. The opportunity will usually take us by surprise. This is when we learn something about ourselves, more about our God and it will become a defining moment in our lives. There is a freedom reserved for those who are willing to live with the consequences of uncompromising virtue. There is freedom in knowing that you will not abandon what is right for profit, progress or expediency. There is freedom in knowing that your maturity has risen to the level of your gifts and talents.

Remember, your character is showing - so let it bring glory to God.