

Integrity:

Having strong moral principles;
moral uprightness.



I don't think anyone would dispute the argument that there is a distinct lack of integrity in the world today. It seems that moral uprightness - doing what is right just because it is right is not "in vogue" any longer. God on the other hand takes the matter seriously. Proverbs 11:3 tells us; "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity." We see that honesty, doing what is right, and caring for others are important qualities to the Lord our God.

Interestingly, one definition for integrity is; *the state of being whole and undivided*. The marriage relationship should reflect this state. Another way to look at it is that marriage should be a place of integrity. Strong moral principles and morals should be reflected in the way we relate to our spouse. Dishonesty, outright lying, pride, disrespect, or selfishness should not be seen in our marriages. Especially Christian marriages! Our wholeness - being *one* and undivided in the marriage relationship exemplifies integrity.

Integrity in the marriage relationship means that we will do what it takes to protect our marriage. We will set boundaries with people of the opposite sex to help keep us from falling to immorality. We will take morality seriously and not compromise. We will not justify "slip ups" (also known as sin) or try to sweep sinful behavior "under the carpet" rationalizing that it is "no big deal." We will live by God's principles for life, rather than the world's principles.

Examine your own life and behavior; are you trustworthy? Do you do what is right even if no one else would know? Do you treat your spouse with honor and respect? Do your principles align with God's principles? Live a life of integrity in your marriage and every aspect of your life.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples grow in their marriage relationship. Additional information about serving your spouse can be found in the following articles:

3 Habits to Maintain Integrity in Your Marriage by Nikki Walker - marriedandyoung.com

How Important Is Integrity in Relationships by Sylvia Smith - www.marriage.com