

CHARACTER COUNTS

INTEGRITY

BIG IDEA: Be the same Christ-centered person at all times.

DATE: Sunday, September 27, 2026

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:8-17

OPENING QUESTION

What athlete or celebrity do you admire for their character?

SETTING THE STAGE

1 Peter. Simon Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, wrote this letter to various churches scattered across Asia Minor—modern-day Turkey.. Peter's purpose was to encourage these believers to stand strong in their faith, even though they endured suffering and persecution for Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 3:8-17 (CSB)

⁸ Finally, all of you be like-minded and sympathetic, love one another, and be compassionate and humble, ⁹ not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing, since you were called for this, so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For the one who wants to love life and to see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit, ¹¹ and let him turn away from evil and do what is good. Let him seek peace and pursue it, ¹² because the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do what is evil.

¹³ Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

¹⁶ Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

DISCUSSION

How would you define integrity?

READ: 1 Peter 3:8-12

Have you ever been looked down on, excluded or treated differently because of your faith or your morals? Share what that was like with your group.

Have you ever compartmentalized your life – acting or speaking one way with co-workers vs. church friends vs. at home? Why do you think you did that?

What are the rewards of living a life of integrity?

What are some ways we can pursue or chase after goodness and righteousness?

READ: 1 Peter 3:13-15

How can we tell people about the hope that is in us?

Who do you know of who has experienced suffering yet held on to hope and faith?

Who do you know of who has faced opposition for their faith? Did they remain faithful and full of integrity?

READ: 1 Peter 3:16-17

What are some guardrails you have put in place to help you live a life of integrity?

Have you ever had to have a talk with a Christian brother or sister who was failing to live a life of integrity? What was that like? How did they take it?

Do you have a relationship in your life that is open to accountability? Why or why not?

How can our group help one another maintain lives of integrity?

What does a life of gentleness and reverence look like?

RESPONSE

Integrity means always being the same Christ-centered person. Ask the Holy Spirit to examine the different areas of your life. Is your character consistent across each area? Why or why not? Is there anything you have compartmentalized that needs to come out into the light? Confess before God, seek accountability and with the Holy Spirit's help, develop the character trait of integrity.