

Integrity Always Pays in Different Ways

Lesson 3 • Job 1:1-5

How Does the Bible Define Blameless Integrity?

- It is living before God and others in a manner **CONSISTENT** with **who** God is and **what** He requires.
- It is **not** being perfectly **SINLESS** but **constantly** dealing with sin in a manner **consistent** with **who** God is and **what** He requires.
- It does **not** mean you are never accused of doing wrong, but it does mean your integrity remains intact even when under **ATTACK**.

Different Ways Integrity Always Pays

1. Blameless integrity is **PRIZED** by God more than anything else. Job 1:1, 8; 2:3

- Very little is revealed about the **CIRCUMSTANCES** surrounding Job's life. (1:1a)

"There was a man...whose name was Job"

"in the land of Uz...of the east"

"A long time ago in a place far, far away there lived a man we can all identify with and his name was Job!"

- Very much is revealed about the blameless integrity of Job's **CHARACTER**. (1:1b)

"...and that man was..."

- God prizes **INTEGRITY** that is **blameless, upright, God-fearing, and sin-rejecting!**

"He was **blameless**—a man of **complete integrity**. He feared God and stayed away from evil." NLT

"He was a man of **perfect integrity**, who feared God and turned away from evil." HCSB

The Integrity God Prizes Is...

- 1) **Blameless** = Integrity that is **COMPLETE**, lacking nothing God requires.

"... the LORD appeared...and said..., 'I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.'" Genesis 17:1

- 2) **Upright** = Integrity that **CONFORMS** to God's standards of righteousness.

"The **integrity of the upright** will guide them, But the **crookedness of the treacherous** will destroy them." Proverbs 11:3

"The way of a guilty man is **crooked**. But as for the pure, his conduct is **upright**." Proverbs 21:8

The upright seek to do right in God's sight without being uptight!

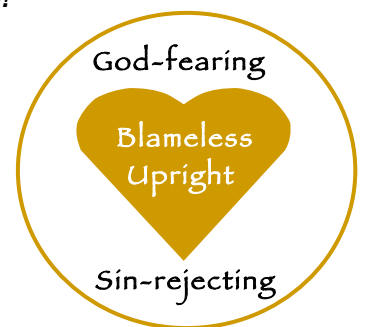
- 3) **God-Fearing** = Integrity that is **COMMITTED** to being in a soul-satisfying and God-pleasing relationship with God.

*The person who fears God puts God first in every area of their lives—
so he or she will be blameless and upright before Him in all things!*

- 4) **Sin-Rejecting** = Integrity that is **CONSECRATED** to less sinning and more running after God.

"Hate evil, you who love the LORD..." Psalm 97:10

"And to man He said, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding." Job 28:28; Proverbs 16:6



The Integrity God Prizes Is Evaluated on Earth and in Heaven...

1) Job's evaluation of his blameless integrity: *Job 29:12-17; Job 31*

2) God's evaluation of his blameless integrity: *"Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on earth!" Job 1:8*

► Job prized in his **CHILDREN** what God prizes in His children—**blameless integrity**. *Job 1:5*

Blameless integrity was Job's way of life on a daily basis!

2. Blameless integrity often **PROMOTES** prosperity. *Job 1:2-4*

► God loves to **PROSPER (bless)** those who prize what He prizes!

"How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the LORD." Psalms 119:1

► Job's integrity was greater than anyone on earth and his prosperity was **GREATER** than anyone in the East!

"...and that man was the greatest of all the men in the east." Job 1:3; 29:2-10, 19, 21-25

Job was healthy, wealthy, and wise: He was rich in purity, posterity, possessions, prominence, and peace!

3. Blameless integrity does not **PREVENT** adversity but does **PREPARE** us for it. *Job 1:6-22*

"As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, And You set me in Your presence forever." Psalms 41:12

Character is not made in crisis—it is only exhibited.

4. Blameless integrity should be **PURSUED** in both prosperity and adversity.

#1 Blameless integrity is always rooted in God's character not our circumstances. *(1:1)*

#2 Blameless integrity is a heart issue first and foremost. *(1:5)*

#3 Blameless integrity is a character and conduct issue. *(1:1)*

#4 Blameless integrity establishes our reputation with others and our community. *(1:1)*

#5 Blameless integrity is ultimately measured and approved by God Himself. *(1:1, 8; 2:3)*

#6 Blameless integrity will always be attacked by the Adversary with false accusations in unexpected ways. *(1:8-9; 2:3-5)*

#7 Blameless integrity impacts our family, home life, and relationships. *(1:4-5)*

#8 Blameless integrity does not prevent adversity, but it does prepare us for it. *(1:20-21; 2:9-10)*

#9 Blameless integrity puts our prosperity into proper perspective. *(1:4-5)*

#10 Blameless integrity always pays but in different ways and at different times than we expect. *(1:2-4, 20-22; 2:9-10)*

What about You and Me?

- How are you tempted to focus more on the **circumstances around you** than the **character within you**? How do **times of prosperity** change your focus? How do **times of adversity** change your focus?
- Do we **prize blameless integrity** in our own lives the way God does? How could you **better model blameless integrity** for your children—whether they are younger or older?
- Which of the four aspects of integrity (**blameless, upright, God-fearing, sin-rejecting**) do you struggle with the most? How is God **using adversity** to develop these aspects of integrity in your heart and life?
- Pray over the **10 principles of blameless integrity** listed above and ask God to begin to show you where you need to grow.