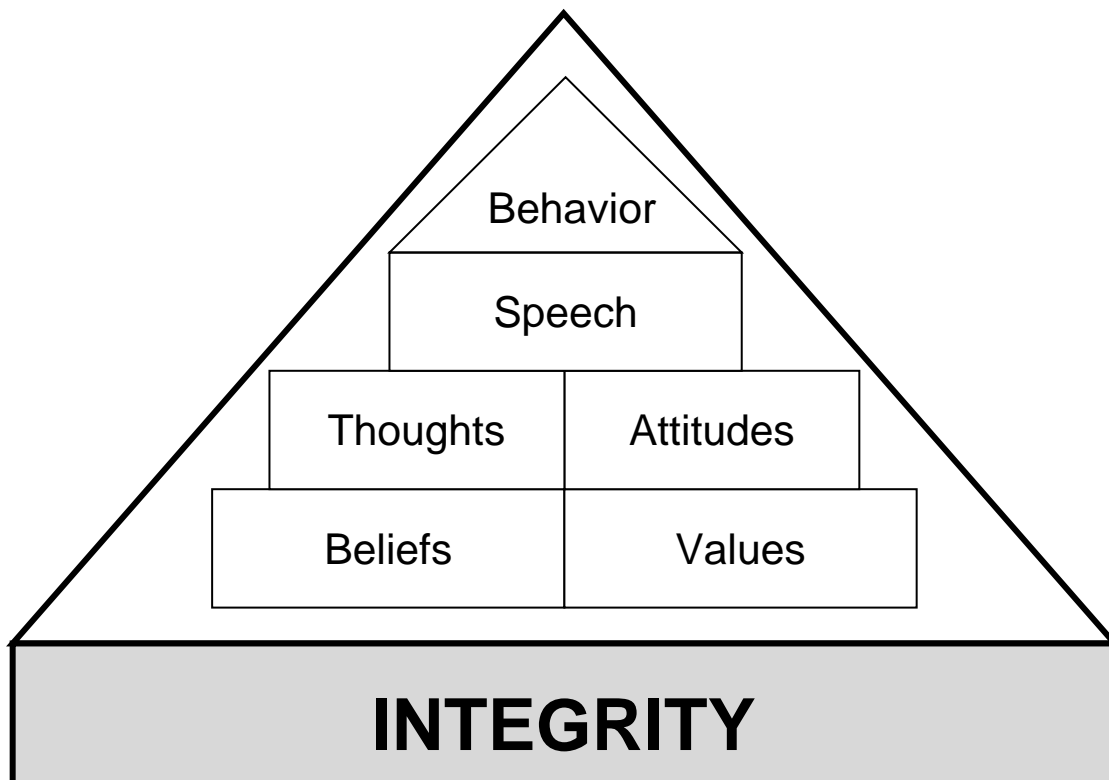


*“He who walks in integrity walks securely,
but he who perverts his ways will be found out.”*

Proverbs 10:9 (NASB)

Why do our attempts to change so often fail?



Integrity is the pre-requisite for lasting change.

What is Integrity?

- In the Hebrew: “Complete moral innocence.”
- Webster’s Dictionary: 1. The state or quality of being complete, undivided, or unbroken. 2. Moral soundness, honesty, upright.

Why is Integrity so important? 3 Reasons:

1. _____ are impossible without integrity.

- With God John 4:24, Psalm 15
- With Myself Psalm 51:5-6
- With Others Ephesians 4:15

2. _____ is impossible without integrity.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, remembering that as members of the one body you are called to live in harmony, and never forget to be thankful for what God has done for you.”

Colossians 3:15

3. _____ is impossible without integrity.

“Like a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.”

Proverbs 25:26

Conclusion:

- Honesty breeds “at-homeness” with God
- Dishonesty destines us to disgrace

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn about “lasting change” that was helpful to you? Explain.
2. Why do most of our attempts to change fall short? What’s missing in the process?
3. Give the three reasons why integrity is essential for lasting change. With which of these reasons do you most identify? Why?
4. What aspect of your life do you think needs to be more “integrated?” What steps will you take to follow David’s example in Psalm 139:23-24? Be specific.