Why do our attempts to change so often fail?

Integrity is the pre-requisite for lasting change.

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

Proverbs 10:9 (NASB)
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
     Psalm51:5-6
   - 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.