

YES | NO

Words that define your life

*Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply **let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No';** anything beyond this comes from the evil one. Matthew 5:33-37*

*Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. **Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no,** or you will be condemned. James 5:12*

It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows. Proverbs 20:25

My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, if you have struck hands in pledge for another, if you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth, then do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands: Go and humble yourself; press your plea with your neighbor! Proverbs 6:1

Yes is a word that reflects **INTEGRITY**.

Let your yes be yes. That is a statement of **INTEGRITY**.

One of the areas that we see integrity violated is something called **CONDITIONAL** Integrity.

WHY DOES INTEGRITY MATTER?

1. MY INTEGRITY **PLEASES** GOD

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13, NIV

2. MY INTEGRITY **IMPACTS** OTHER PEOPLE

"The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him." Proverbs 20:7, NIV

"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." 1 Peter 2:12, NIV

3. INTEGRITY **BLESSES** MY LIFE

The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness. Proverbs 11:5, NIV

The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. Proverbs 10:9, NIV

HOW DO I LIVE WITH INTEGRITY?

1. ASK GOD TO **TEST** MY HEART

I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. 1 Chronicles 29:17, NIV

Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth. Psalm 26:2-3, NIV

2. STUDY TO KNOW WHAT IS **TRUE**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15, NIV

3. APPLY GOD'S WORD TO YOUR **DAILY ACTIVITIES**

"Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart" Psalm 15:1-2, NIV

"Deciding to integrate my heart's value into my daily actions" ~ John Maxwell

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22, NIV

4. STAND STRONG DESPITE THE **CIRCUMSTANCES**

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." Job 2:3, NIV

5. REFUSE TO BE **PULLED** BY OTHERS

They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" Mark 12:14-15, NIV

Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.
Proverbs 28:6, NIV