

## LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

### 7 STEPS TO MAINTAINING INTEGRITY AS A LEADER

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#### CONSIDER TEMPTATION

- We are all tempted in different ways and we are all one step away from stupid.
  - It is important to not never consider yourself above temptation.
- Have a holy fear of never being above temptation.
  - "So be careful. If you are thinking, 'Oh, I would never behave like that' – let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin." - 1 Corinthians 10:12
  - "Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence." - 1 Corinthians 10:12

*"If you lose people's trust – you've lost it all." - Chris Hodges*

#### RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- The best defense is a good offense, so keep your relationship with God strong.
- A national survey of ministers who fell had these common traits:
  - Stopped meeting with God daily.
  - Read their Bible only to get sermons.
  - Didn't regularly open up to someone.
  - Thought they would never fail.
- We can continue our personal discipline through fasting, tithing, evangelizing, worshiping, and keeping a consistent prayer life.

*"I believe God is a speaking God!" - Chris Hodges*

#### MAINTAIN YOUR MARRIAGE

- Don't spend more time on other people's marriages and relationships.
- Beware of living two separate lives.
  - Be diligent to involve your spouse in ministry.
  - Surround yourself with reminders of your family.
  - Have honest communication about places of temptation.



- Go to bed at the same time as your spouse every night.
- By doing these things you will remain in alignment with your spouse.

### HEALTHY OUTLETS

- Find healthy outlets for emotional, sexual, and physical energy.
- Utilize the Principle of Replacement in your life by having healthy outlets to exert energy.
  - “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” - Romans 12:21

### GUARD YOUR MIND

- The battle for sin always begins in your mind.
- Be vigilant about protecting your “eye gate.”
  - “But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” - James 1:14-15
  - “We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” - 2 Corinthians 10:5
  - “Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of your sinful nature.” - Romans 13:14
  - “I will set before my eyes no vile thing.” - Psalm 101:3

### DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES

- Spend time reminding yourself of the damaging consequences of a personal moral failure.
- “Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.” - Luke 12:1-3

### PROTECTING YOURSELF

- “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the body is weak.” - Matthew 26:41
- Make a plan to protect yourself with layers of accountability.

*“Live your life as if there is no such thing as a secret” - Chris Hodges*



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

See the last couple of pages for Discussion Questions that will help you and your team get the most out of this episode!

### EPISODE RESOURCE

- [GrowLeader Regionals 2024](#)
- [Monthly Mentoring with Pastor Chris](#)
- [Develop Kingdom Builder / Legacy Teams](#)
- [Previous Episodes + Show Notes](#)
- [Free Church Resources](#)
- [Compassion International](#)
- [The StudioC](#)
- [The Wesleyan Investment Foundation](#)



**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Keep growing to reach your full potential by asking yourself and your team these questions:

**CONSIDER TEMPTATION**

- 1. In what areas of your life can you develop a healthy fear of the Lord and “healthy paranoia” about temptation?

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- 2. In what ways can self-confidence be replaced with God-confidence based on 1 Corinthians 10:12?

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**RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

- 1. What practical steps can be taken to keep your relationship with God strong, especially in the midst of a busy schedule?

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- 2. How can you ensure that personal disciplines like a daily quiet time with God, regular Bible study, and open communication with others are maintained consistently?

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**MAINTAIN YOUR MARRIAGE**

1. How can individuals balance ministry commitments while ensuring they involve their spouse and avoid living two separate lives?

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2. Pastor Chris mentioned that the grass is greener where you water it. What is one step that you can take to “water the grass” in your marriage?

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**HEALTHY OUTLETS**

1. What are the ways that you are physically active and release energy? Where is the area that you need to grow in regards to consistent physical activity?

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2. How can the Principle of Replacement be applied in finding healthy outlets for emotional, sexual, and physical energy?

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**GUARD YOUR MIND**

1. What is one area of your life that you need to better guard your mind? What steps can you take to better protect yourself in the areas of media, music, movies, relationships, etc.?

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- 2. How can you actively take every thought captive and make them obedient to Christ based on 2 Corinthians 10:5?

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**DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES**

- 1. Take some time to consider the consequences of a moral failure in your life. If with your team, encourage each person to consider and make a list of what would happen. Looking at your list, how do these consequences impact your desire for more integrity?

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- 2. What role does accountability play in avoiding hypocrisy and concealed actions from being disclosed? If you don't have one, who can you ask to be your accountability partner?

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**PROTECTING YOURSELF**

- 1. In what ways can you effectively watch and pray to prevent falling into temptation, acknowledging the balance between a willing spirit and a weak body?

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- 3. How can the mindset of living life as if there is no such thing as a secret contribute to a more accountable and transparent lifestyle?

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