

Discussion Question:

Have you ever done something that you didn't feel was right? Was it peer-pressure? What were the results/consequences?

What is integrity?

- ⤴ I believe there are four components to integrity: what you say, do, believe, and all these things in a morally upright fashion. When all four of these are in alignment with one another then there is integrity.
- ⤴ When one of these four components are not in alignment then there is a lack of integrity.

Let's look at the example of Peter

- ⤴ Peter had characteristics that made him a leader
 - inquisitiveness, initiative, involvement
- ⤴ He learned characteristics that made him a better leader:
 - submission, restraint, humility, love, compassion, courage
- ⤴ Why is Peter important?
 - Matt 16:17-19 says
 - Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
 - Peter is the leader that Jesus chose to build his church on
 - Peter was with Jesus for three years and was part of Jesus inner circle

But Peter was not perfect.

Read Gal 2:11-16

Who are the Jews?	They are the descendant of Abraham
Who are the Gentiles?	Everyone who is not a descendant of Abraham
What is circumcision?	In Genesis 17 God made a covenant with Abraham saying that through Abraham many nations will be blessed and this is the sign that the people of Abraham were to carry – the sign of circumcision Command from God and shows submission to His authority Why is it not needed anymore: Because of Jesus, circumcision is not needed anymore as God's blessing is not through works, but through believing in Jesus
Who is Paul?	His name use to be Saul when he was a Pharisee that did everything he could to stop Christians. In Acts 9 we have the account of Saul meeting Jesus and having his life changed forever. He became a Christian and changed his name to Paul. He turned into a lover of Jesus and went to many cities telling people about what Jesus has done
What was the problem?	Peter had a lack of integrity. Peter who is a Jew was eating just fine with the Gentiles but when other Jews came along he joined their group and separated himself from the Gentiles Why was it good to eat with gentiles? Because God made it very clear to Peter that Jesus is for both the Jews and the Gentiles and that there should be no divide between them What Peter believed (that both Jews and Gentiles can be saved through Jesus) and what Peter did (separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid)

did not line-up

What affect does this have?

v. 13 tells us that because of Peter's hypocrisy it lead Barnabas astray

Leaders are people in high positions and they can lead people who are following them astray

We are not perfect people. The discussion question probably brought to mind some times when we did things that we knew were wrong.

Peter was seen as a leader chosen by God, who walked with God for three years and yet was not perfect. But there was someone who never lacked integrity. His name is Jesus.

Why is it important that Jesus have integrity?

Promises were made by God regarding Jesus and He will keep them. Christ fulfilled prophecies.

What did Jesus do?

On occasion when Jesus was being questioned why he stayed around sinners he answered in Luke 5:31 "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Jesus' mission was very clear. He came so that sinners, like you and me, can be saved. He did what we could not.

What is sin?

Sin is falling short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)

This means: we are rebellious and do not meet the standards that God has called us to

Sin is when someone or something rules your heart that is not God

For example, striving to do well is not a sin by itself, but if all you do and all your focus is on doing well then it has become a sin because it has taken that place in your heart

A good analogy is like a driver. If the driver is God then you go where God wants you to go, but if the driver is someone or something else then you go wherever that driver leads you

Why did He need to do this?

God is a God of justice and when things go wrong, a price must be paid. We have sinned and our rightful payment needs to be death (Romans 6:23).

Why such a harsh punishment?

Because God is Holy and cannot stand sin.

How did He accomplish this?

Christ paid the price (1 Cor 15:3-4). Christ died for us and because of that an exchange took place.

How does Christ dying have any impact on us?

Christ is perfect

We are not

Christ took our "not perfectness"

We are given Christ's perfect "status"

At the beginning, I asked if you have ever been peer-pressured to do something you knew was wrong. My challenge for you today is what voice will you listen to next time. When we are peer-pressured the next time, will we be listening to the voice of God or will we listen to those around us?