

Why Integrity Matters

SENT: Tracing God's hand in the roadmap of your life

Philippians 2:12-15 Pastor Jonathan Schaeffer

*People with integrity walk safely,
but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.*

Proverbs 10:9 NLT

Integrity impacts your influence

Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. Philippians 2:15-16; 1 Chronicles 29:17

- Your impact is in direct proportion to the level of your integrity.
High integrity = **Positive** impact
Low integrity = **Negative** impact
- The quality of your life and work influences people to have a greater—or lesser—desire for the faith that is important to you.
- Your positive impact is **compromised** when there are **gaps** in the wall of integrity of your life.

Key integrity marker: How do you talk?

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Philippians 2:14-15; Eph. 4:29-32

- Your words reveal the **spiritual temperature** of your heart.
The mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good person brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil person brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him...everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word...
Jesus, in Matthew 12:34-37
- If you want to have a positive influence with others, pay attention to how you speak. Make it **encouraging** and **helpful!** Refuse to engage in office gossip, hurtful jokes, harsh words, and other negative talk.

Cooperate with God's work in your life

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:12-13

- **Your part: You have a key responsibility to discover and live out the implications of your relationship with Christ.**

Being a Christian is a relationship, a journey, where you keep on growing to become more like the One who gave his life for you. "**Make every effort**" to do that! 2 Peter 1:5; 3:14; Ephesians 4:3

- Personal: Incorporate **daily habits** for spiritual growth.
- Community: Take opportunities to **grow with others.**
Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (Sun, 10:30 am, Dec. 4)
Grace Counseling (440-243-4885, x202)
Making Peace retreat (8x/year; see gracecma.org)
Seven Pillars (Wednesdays, 7pm, starting Jan. 4--MH)
Galvanized (men's only recovery, Fridays, 7:30pm)
Keys to Recovery (for everyone; Tuesdays, 7:30pm)
Spiritual Freedom Seminar (Saturday, Feb. 11, 9:30am)

This is a big deal to the One who gave his life for us, and lives in us if we've accepted him. The idea of failing to honor him, Paul says, should create in us a sense of "fear and trembling."

- **God's part: He lives in me from the moment I put my trust in him, giving me "the desire & the power to do what pleases him."** 2:13
My influence and integrity is—first of all—a result of **who lives in me.** He's more **welcome** in my life when I make decisions that honor him. He wants me to grow!

Personal Reflection

- Ask the Lord to help you have a zero-tolerance policy for grumbling or arguing this week (Phil. 2:14). Pay close attention. What happened?
- "*Continue to work out your salvation...*" (Paul, Phil. 2:12) What are two steps you could take now to "work out" your faith in Christ?

10 Upcoming Events at Grace | November 20, 2022



Winter Classes Begin Dec. 4 and Jan. 4 @MH & OF

You can grow despite the snow! New Sunday classes begin December 4. New Wednesday evening classes begin January 4. No classes or ministry gatherings this Wednesday: see you at Thanksgiving Eve service!

gracecma.org/classes



Christmas Concert Sat, Dec. 10 | 7 PM @MH

Welcome the Christmas season with the **Singing Angels!** This organization has brought family-friendly music with them for nearly 60 years. Tickets: \$12/person and include dessert after the show.

bit.ly/angelsconcert22



Faithful Journey Tues, Dec. 13 | 7 AM @MH

If you want to learn how to care and show the love of Jesus to LGBT+ individuals in your family or friend group, this support group will help you find new understanding and wise insight.

gracecma.org/bridge



Christmas at Grace Sat, Dec. 24

Invite a friend to share Christmas Eve services with you!

3 / 5 PM @ Olmsted Falls

1 / 3 / 5 / 7 PM @ Middleburg Heights and Online

gracecma.org/events



Welcome Families this Christmas

Serve in Grace Kids for a Christmas Eve Service

Help us offer a warm welcome to new families this Christmas by signing up to serve during a Christmas Eve Service. Sign-up today!

bit.ly/gkforchristmas

10 Upcoming Events at Grace | November 20, 2022



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wed, Nov. 23 | 7 PM @OF

Bring the whole family for a night of worship and testimonies of thankfulness for what God has done! GraceKids for Birth - K is available; register online. No classes or ministry gatherings that evening.

gracecma.org/events



Special Thanksgiving Offering

\$100K Matching Goal for the Flourish Project

You have now surpassed the goal—thank you!! Grace is giving over 200k to support affordable housing, job training, and programs for Cleveland's refugee and immigrant community. gracecma.org/give



JobSeekers Mon, Nov. 21 | 7 PM @MH + Online

Looking for a new job? JobSeekers support group is a community where you'll get to network with others, prepare for your next interview, and be prayed for all along the way.

gracecma.org/events



Refresh Women's Event Tues, Nov. 22 | 7 PM @OF

It's possible to believe that God is both faithful and always doing something new! You're invited to soak in a time of worship and prayer this month with the intention to orient your heart for the advent season.

gracecma.org/events



We Care Shoe Drive

In the lobby Sun, Nov. 20 - Dec. 4

New athletic shoes (all kids sizes) are needed. Support the ministry financially by writing *We Care* in the memo line of any check to Grace Church.

gracecma.org/events