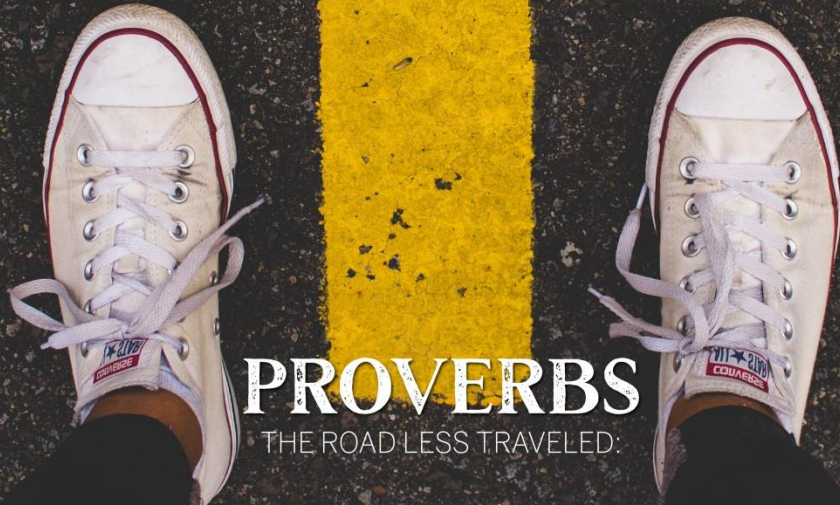


Integrity: What's That?



PROVERBS
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED:

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- **Starts early – babies fake crying**

Why lie?

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- Shift blame
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- Get my way
- **Avoid confrontation**

Why lie?

To give expression of who I wish I were, rather than who I actually am. Needing approval of others. Obvious short term, immediate benefit.

**The benefit of lying: We give people the picture
we want them to have.**

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Lying = When we deliberately present an inaccurate view
in order to motivate someone else to think or act in a way
they would not if they had an accurate picture.

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- Listen
- Ask
- **Pursue enthusiastically**

Proverbs 2:1-5

- ¹ My son, **if you receive my words**
and **treasure up my commandments** with you,
- ² **making your ear attentive to wisdom**
and **inclining your heart to understanding;**
- ³ yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
- ⁴ if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
- ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.

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- Founded in our relationship with God
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- **God protects those in relationship with Him**

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5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

8 guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.

Integrity flows from our relationship with God. He knows and loves us exactly as we are. We cannot fool Him. Lying to God is pointless. Stupid. If we can't deceive God, why would we lie to anyone else?

What is integrity?

How do we get integrity? (2:1-8)

What are the benefits of living with integrity? (2:9-22)

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- **God protects by giving us wisdom, making us people of integrity**

Proverbs 2:6-12

- ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
- ⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
- ⁸ guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.
- ⁹ **Then you will understand righteousness and justice**
and **equity, every good path;**

Proverbs 2:6-12

- 10 for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
- 11 discretion will watch over you,
understanding will guard you,
- 12 delivering you from the way of evil,
from men of perverted speech,

What are the benefits of living with integrity? (2:9-22)

- God protects by giving us wisdom, making us people of integrity
- **God empowers us to discern and avoid those promoting evil**

Proverbs 2:9-19

⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;

¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

¹¹ discretion will watch over you,
understanding will guard you,

¹² **delivering you from the way of evil,**
from men of perverted speech,

¹³ who **forsake the paths of uprightness**
to **walk in the ways of darkness,**

Proverbs 2:9-19

- 14** who rejoice in doing evil
and delight in the perverseness of evil,
- 15** men whose paths are crooked,
and who are devious in their ways.
- 16** So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her smooth words,
- 17** who forsakes the companion of her youth
and forgets the covenant of her God;

Proverbs 2:9-19

¹⁸ for her house sinks down to death,
and her paths to the departed;
¹⁹ none who go to her come back,
nor do they regain the paths of life.

What are the benefits of living with integrity? (2:9-22)

- God protects by giving us wisdom, making us people of integrity
- God empowers us to discern and avoid those promoting evil
- **God empowers us to live happy lives**

Proverbs 2:20-22

- ²⁰ So you will walk in the way of the good
and keep to the paths of the righteous.
- ²¹ For the upright will inhabit the land,
and those with integrity will remain in it,
- ²² but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

Lance Armstrong

Lance Armstrong **Champion cyclist**

Lance Armstrong Champion cyclist **\$75,000,000**

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Martha Stewart

Lance Armstrong Champion cyclist \$75,000,000

Martha Stewart **saved \$45,000**

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Takeaways:

- Make a list of the costs lying has produced in your life?
- Make a list of the benefits from Proverbs 2:5-21 that come with living wisely, with integrity?
- If there is a relationship in which you have shaded the truth, confess and address.
- **Commit to living with integrity in all of life.**