

## **Morality, Ethics, Integrity, Punctuality, Accountability**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Three: Morality, Ethics, Integrity:**

These terms are often used interchangeably but there is a distinction:

The word **Morals** is derived from a Greek word “Mos” which means **custom**.

On the other hand, if we talk about **Ethics**, it is also derived from a Greek word “Ethikos” which means **character**.

**Morality** is usually defined as principles (normally internal) which guide differentiation between right and wrong

**Ethics** describes a social system or societal structure of moral codes that govern virtuous action.

**Integrity** adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty.

### **How do these affect us in Ministry?**

**ONE ANSWER: SOULS ARE AT STAKE!**

**14 Yr old boy** in back of my ambulance, had attempted suicide. Asked to read Bible. I told him start in John. He had read the whole bible. Last year his Youth Pastor had a moral failure.

### **Five Rules of Integrity**

So, how do you take these ideas and this 'concept' of integrity and turn them into **something practical** you can apply in your life? I believe these 'Five Rules of Integrity' will help you do exactly that and make a positive impact on everyone you minister to.

**1 - When you make a commitment, stick to it.** Ecclesiastes 5:5 Better [is it] that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

If, for any reason, you can't deliver as promised, keep them informed and updated.

**Don't wait for them to chase you.** If you let it drop, pick it up and apologize, however embarrassed that makes you feel and make it right. And don't wait til the last minute to inform them.

**2 – Honesty is the best policy.** 2 Corinthians 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Never be dishonest in any of your doings. Children will pick up on this quick.

**3 – Live Above Reproach** Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

**It takes commitment** to living a righteous and holy life to live above reproach. You must protect your reputation at all costs! There must be a high moral code of conduct.

**Live above reproach VIRTUALLY as well.** Your phone/laptop/tablet can be a blessing or a curse.

- **Background check, agreement form, legality.**

**4 – Be Real.** Job 27:8 For what [is] the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?

Children will quickly see through a fake or “put on” character. Also, be who God make you to be. Don't pretend to be something or someone that you aren't.

**5 – Conduct yourself with Professionalism**

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

No off the cuff stuff...

PREPARE / PREPARE / PREPARE

Dress appropriately. Be professional

**YOUR JOB (whether teaching a SS class, youth leader, choir director, bus ministry) IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR SECULAR JOB!!!**

---

## Integrity in Discipline

### 7 Fundamentals of Discipline with Integrity:

1. **Distinguish between Parental Discipline and Sunday School or Children's Church Discipline**
    - You DO NOT have the same authority as you do at home!!!
    - **Discipline Measures** must be clearly defined by the administration in written form.
  2. **Never discipline alone.** Always have another designated adult present
  3. **Documentation – document every incident with extreme detail - CLA.**  
<https://www.christianlaw.org/>
  4. **Identify a child's behavior.**
    - Diversity of background.
    - Are they acting out because of a medical situation?
  5. **Abuse – NEVER** overstep your boundaries.
  6. **Privacy /Confidentiality**
    - Don't tell everything you know.
    - Keep integrity concerning situations that doesn't involve other church people.
    - What happens in children's church stays in children's church with the exception of the pastor, administrator and parents
  7. **Never humiliate a child in private or public**
    - Do not make fun of the way they are dressed
    - Do not wrinkle your nose at how they smell
    - Do not use them in any illustration that would embarrass them
- 

### Punctuality:

**Proverbs 21:5** The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

Punctuality is not about being on time, it's basically about respecting your own commitments

How would your BOSS respond if you were late to work every day? Or 2x a week?

**CARTOON**

**Eph 5:16** Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

---

## Accountability

**Hebrews 13:17** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that [is] unprofitable for you.

### 6 Steps to Accountability



**Chain of Command:** as much as possible, always follow the chain of command. Understand that the Pastor has a huge responsibility. Therefore, if you're a Sunday School teacher and something can be handled by the SS Superintendent, that's the one you need to address first.