

Leaving a Legacy of Love
Part 6: A Loving Integrity
Matthew 5:33-37

1. Why do people lie about themselves?

- **To make ourselves look better** (low self-esteem, don't measure up, etc.)
- **To avoid consequences (weaving the web)**
- **To take the “easy way out”** (path of least resistance, convenience)
- **The bottom line: To avoid the truth** (“you can't handle the truth!”)

2. How can I become a man/woman of integrity?

- **Admit the problem** (stop lying to yourself)
- **Believe that God is bigger than the problem, loves you, and will deliver you** (Jesus always wants to pull us in; “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today,” Luke 19:5)
- **Confess and repent to God and others** (⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:5-9)
- **Develop a plan** (that includes a radical commitment to truth; “All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.” Matthew 5:37)
- **Encouragement from others** (small group authenticity, accountability, restoration)