

Proverbs 10:9

Integrity

Christlike character ...

I. In Your Heart

- A. A Clean Heart
- B. A Clear Conscience

II. At Your House

- A. A Consistent Nature
- B. Concrete Example

III. On the Street

- A. A Credible Person
- B. A Convincing Witness

... in every capacity.

Children, Listen ...

1. Is it important to be honest and upright in all we do?
2. Dishonest people may fool people – but do they fool God?
3. Do you think people will notice if you always try to do the right thing?
4. Who is the only one who walked the earth that was perfectly good and honest?
5. Is there someone in your life that you see as a good example to you of a good and honest person?

Miss Maudie's Take

The name Atticus Finch is pretty cool – it may or may not be familiar to you. He is the fictitious lawyer in the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. His character is the model of integrity in every way. His neighbor Miss Maudie, describes his character to his daughter Scout this way: "*Atticus Finch is the same in his house as he is on the public streets.*" He is a fair minded and sober man –the point is, he is moral and consistent – he is no hypocrite. Atticus' is a great illustration of a good man, but he is not real. We on the other hand have got to be real – and really consistent in godly character. This begins in private on our knees where we seek God's grace to give us pure hearts. A truly sanctified heart will be on display in the home in practices and interactions with those in closest proximity to us. Then we take it to the streets – our public persona on display. Of course, our perfect example of consistent integrity does not come from a pretend man in a made-up town of Maycomb, Alabama. Our perfect example is found in Jesus who lived out holiness consistently in the real world. We are to follow suit. Working backwards: are we seen by our acquaintances as people of integrity? Can our family members testify to our moral consistency? Most importantly, even though He sees our flaws perfectly, does God still see in us individuals after His own heart? May God grant us the grace to be people integrity on the public streets, in our homes and on our knees.