

Safeguarding Personal Integrity  
Dr. Paul Gibson  
Hamodsborg Baptist Church

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Unexpected failure

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Why do you think these men failed at maintaining personal integrity?

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52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:52

NIV

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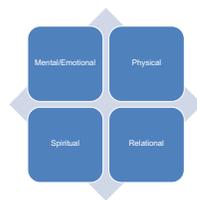
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Integrity is personal congruence, built upon Biblical conviction, in all facets of a person's life.

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How to maintain personal integrity as a pastor?

1. Know the battle
2. Know your weaknesses
3. Practice Biblical habits

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Know the battle

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24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:24–28 NIV

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Pastoring is a constant kick in the teeth.

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How might the "daily pressure of my concerns for all the churches" affect a pastor:

- Mentally/Emotionally?
- Physically?
- Relationally?
- Spiritually?

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Know your weaknesses

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1. Satan will use our weaknesses to get us to compromise.

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8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 NIV

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7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

2 Corinthians 12:7 NIV

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2. Our weaknesses are what drive us to God.

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9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

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Establish and practice habits that develop Biblical character

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52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:52

NIV

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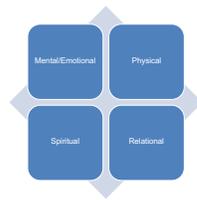
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What habits might you be able to establish and practice that would lead to personal congruence and integrity?

- \* Mental/emotional
- \* Physical
- \* Spiritual
- \* Relational

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\* Relational

- \* Focus on your marriage first!
- \* When's the last time you've been on a date?
- \* 15 Golden Minutes

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Pay attention to weak areas because you might need to spend a little more time "building" strengths around a weakness.

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Final thought

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The dumbest thing a person can say is, "It will never happen to me."

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Know the battle  
Know your weaknesses  
Establish and practice Biblical habits

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Reference List

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