

Dangerous Exchange

Integrity for Compromise

4 Common Integrity Traps

1. It will cost me something

Daniel 3:6 Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” (NIV)

2. Everybody is doing it

Daniel 3:7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. (NIV)

3. What will people think about me

Daniel 3:13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, (NIV)

4. No one will find out

Daniel 3:14–15 and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? (NIV)

3 Things People Of Integrity Do Not Do

1. People of integrity do not have anything to defend

Daniel 3:16–17 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. (NIV)

2. People of integrity do not compromise regardless of the outcome

Daniel 3:17-18 ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (NIV)

3. People of integrity do not compromise regardless of the opinions of people

Daniel 3:19–20 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. (NIV)

4 Benefits Of Integrity

1. God's PRESENCE

Daniel 3:24–25 Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." (NIV)

2. God's PROTECTION

Daniel 3:26–27 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire,²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. (NIV)

Psalms 25:19–21 See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me!²⁰ Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.²¹ May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, LORD, is in you. (NIV)

Proverbs 2:7 He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. (NLT)

3. God's PROMOTION

Daniel 3:30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon. (NIV)

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. (NIV)

Proverbs 10:7 The name of the righteous is used in blessings, but the name of the wicked will rot. (NIV)

4. God's POWER

Daniel 3:28–29 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God."²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way." (NIV)