

# MESSAGE

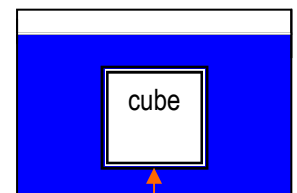
## Integrity Cube

**Integrity is keeping my commitment even if the circumstances when I made the commitment have changed. - David Jeremiah**

Are you familiar with the term "breaching the integrity of the hull". It's a shipping term used to talk about the capacity or strength of a ship's hull surface area. To breach the integrity of the hull means for water to penetrate the material that is designed to keep the water out. When the integrity of the hull is breached, water forces its way in and the ship can sink.

It's the same for us when we are talking about character development, but to use the word 'character' is not helpful as everyone has a character. Some people have a good character and some people have a bad character, sometimes people display the results of a bad character and vice versa, as good and bad are relative terms and unquantifiable let's look at the essence of character from a different perspective.

I want to speak about this issue using the word **integrity**. Imagine a transparent cube sitting at the bottom of a tank of water. Inside the cube is air. This air is protected by the cube's wall, thus the cube has integrity. If a crack occurs and the liquid from the tank begins to seep into the cube then the integrity of the cube is breached. Therefore the amount of liquid inside of the cube is the measure of the lack of integrity.



Integrity of cube

This is the picture I want to use and refer back to as we begin to really explore and examine what it means as leaders to live and lead with integrity.

In my experience in Church circles the greatest deficit by far in Christian (and every other form of) leadership isn't love for the people, it isn't even desire for and ability to cast vision, it isn't strategic thinking or an inability to cope with criticism. By far the greatest deficit in Christian leadership is a lack of integrity.

Let me give you a few tasters just to wet your appetite and provide a framework for your thinking.

- When people say that they will do a certain task, they commit to it and then just forget or choose not to do it.
- When people apply a supposed personal principle to one situation but then apply an opposite personal principle to a different situation if it will be of beneficial value to them.
- When people appear to be open and honest and in doing so disclose most of the truth but withhold a portion of it for personal gain.

When these and many other expressions of such are evident in our lives then a breach occurs in the integrity (cube) of our leadership capacity. If the cube fills up we get disqualified from leading others.

### CHALLENGE

Are there any cracks in your cube that need attention?

If we are to develop our thinking regarding this cube analogy we need to be aware of the reasons for the integrity that we have. Integrity is formed from the set of values, standards or expectations that you adhere to or accept when placed on you by another. If you are a Christian, in becoming one you accepted the standards and values of Jesus Christ that were placed on you by God. If you are in leadership you accepted the standards, expectations and values placed on you by the specific task that you were given. I'd like to say that there is an unwritten universal leadership integrity cube, which - regardless of faith, position, company, organisation, vision, function or anything else you can think of - is the capacity within which leadership MUST occur if it is to be truly effective and (in the case of this writing) God honouring. It's this universal cube that together we shall explore.