

A Needed Adjustment

The April 15 tax deadline is approaching. It always produces a variety of responses. There are those who file their returns early (especially if they are due a refund), and those who procrastinate to the very last minute (particularly if they have to pay more.)

I read recently of a woman who was working on her taxes one night when she made an unpleasant discovery. She noticed that her income from the previous year was higher than she had thought, so she owed more taxes than she had anticipated. Her son suggested that she just “adjust” the figures. “I can’t do that,” she replied. “That would be lying.”

Yet even as she spoke, the woman realized that she had already given in to the same temptation at work. At the bank where she was employed, her boss had often asked her to change dates, add signatures or “adjust” figures. That night, she realized she could no longer participate in the deceit.

The next time her boss asked her to “help out,” she refused. A few weeks later, the vice president of the bank asked the woman if she had altered any documents. She admitted that she had, and was then told that others in the organization had been put in the same position. She and several other employees met with the board of directors, the truth came out, and her boss was fired.

Nobody can rob you of your integrity. You alone have the power to diminish or destroy it by the way you handle temptation.

It is always better to be honest, and to do the right thing.

– Beecher Hunter