

The Cornerstone of Success

The children of a prominent family wondered what to give their father as a gift.

Finally, they decided to commission a professional biographer to write a book chronicling the family's history. The children met with the writer and provided many documents and anecdotes to weave into his story – along with dozens of photographs.

One of the children pointed out, "We have one more matter we need to discuss with you – our family's wayward sheep."

Then, in hushed tones, he told the biographer about an uncle who had been convicted of first-degree murder and executed in the electric chair.

"No problem," the biographer assured the children. "I can handle this information in a way that will avoid embarrassment."

"We don't want to lie," said one of the children.



"No problem," the biographer repeated. "I'll just say that your Uncle Samuel occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death came as a real shock."

While this writer's inventive use of words might bring a chuckle to those who knew the situation, he was in reality deceiving any readers.

And the story should give us pause. We should consider our written and spoken communication. It can be technically accurate without being true. And we should always pursue truth.

Honesty, indeed, is the cornerstone of all success.

Truthful lips endure forever (Proverbs 12:19 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter