

The Virtue Called Integrity

Integrity is a virtue highly regarded. People are drawn to those who display it in their words and actions. Conversely, those in whom integrity is lacking, particularly blatantly so, are disrespected and, often, avoided in personal and professional interactions.

A story in *Guideposts* magazine illustrates these truths.

A woman was working on her taxes one night when she made an unpleasant discovery: her income from the previous year was higher than she had thought, so she owed a little more to the IRS than she had anticipated.

“Why don’t you fix the figures?” her daughter asked her. “I can’t do that,” the woman replied. “That would be lying.”

The woman spent a sleepless night. She realized that she had been involved in some “little white lies.” At the credit union where she worked, her boss had often asked her to change dates, add signatures, and “adjust” figures. She hadn’t felt right about it, but had hesitated to speak up. 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 credit union called her to ask if she had altered any documents. She admitted that she had and was told that others in the organization had been put in the same position. She and several other employees met with the board of directors and the truth was revealed. Her boss was fired and a legal battle ensued.

It’s not easy to admit you’ve done wrong. But as this woman will attest, nobody can rob you of integrity. You alone have the power to diminish or destroy it.

Honor and truthfulness – synonyms of integrity – are key to the success of personal and business relationships in any organization. They are the building blocks in the foundation of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. Our residents, their families and our associates deserve to be treated with honesty and reliability as we provide the care and service God has called us to do.

The man of integrity walks securely (Proverbs 10:9).

– Beecher Hunter