

3.8.2014

Make Integrity Your Watchword

Integrity is the basis for all True Success

As Men of God, we recognize the need to have a clear head, body and heart for God. Part of that realization is the inherent need to have good working relationships with everybody base on Integrity.

The concept of integrity - a character quality that we often talk about but don't see quite as regularly in the lives of public officials or even in the lives of the people we live and work with – is one God asks us to aspire to.

The word integrity comes from the same Latin root as integer and implies a wholeness of person. Just as we would talk about a whole number, so also we can talk about a whole person who is undivided. A person of integrity is living rightly, not divided, nor being a different person in different circumstances. A person of integrity is the same person in private that he or she is in public.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talked about those who were "pure in heart" (Matt. 5:8), implying an undividedness in following God's commands. Integrity, therefore, not only implies an undividedness, but a moral purity as well.

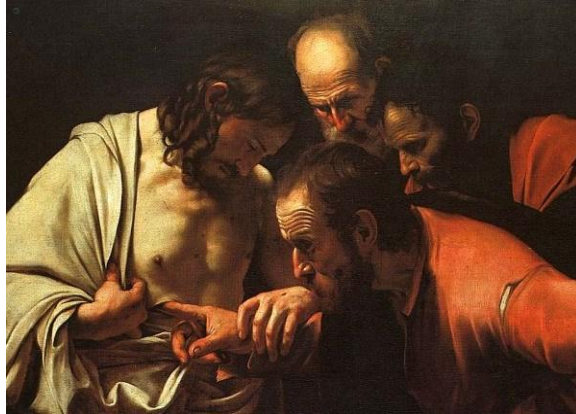
The Bible is full of references to integrity, character, and moral purity. Consider just a few Old Testament references to integrity. In 1 Kings 9:4, God instructs Solomon to walk with "integrity of heart and uprightness" as his father did. David says in 1 Chronicles 29:17, "I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity." And in Psalm 78:70-72 we read that "David shepherded them with integrity of heart, with skillful hands."

All of these verses imply a sense of duty and a recognition that we must have a level of discernment of God's will in our lives. More so, it would certainly require that people of integrity be students of the Word, and then diligently seek to apply God's Word to our lives.

It's been said that we may be the only Bible some people ever read. In other words, people around us often judge the truthfulness of Christianity by its affect in our lives. If they see us as hypocrites, they may not go any further in their investigation of the gospel.

Every day we rub shoulders with people who are watching us. Your life will demonstrate to them whether Christianity is true or false. Others make value judgments about you by your attitudes and actions. We must question ourselves, Have we made the right choice?

May God bless us with His Wisdom and His Work and the wherewithal to complete the mission. Amen



Psalm 15:1-4

LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy mountain? Whoever walks without blame, doing what is right, speaking truth from the heart; Who does not slander with his tongue, does no harm to a friend, never defames a neighbor;

Who disdains the wicked, but honors those who fear the LORD; Who keeps an oath despite the cost, lends no money at interest, accepts no bribe against the innocent.

Whoever acts like this shall never be shaken.

Titus 2:6-8, 10

Urge the younger men, similarly, to control themselves, showing yourself as a model of good deeds in every respect, with integrity in your teaching, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be criticized, so that the opponent will be put to shame without anything bad to say about us...so as to adorn the doctrine of God our savior in every way.

Philippians 4: 8, 9, 21, 23

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you. Give my greetings to every holy one in Christ Jesus.

The brothers who are with me send you their greetings; The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

The Word of the Lord

"This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost."

1 Timothy 1:15

Catechism

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The “mastery” over the world that God offered man from the beginning, was realized about all within man himself: mastery of self. The first man was unimpaired and ordered in his whole being because he was free from the triple lust and strong desire that subjugates him to the pleasures of the senses, covetousness for earthly goods, and self-assertion; contrary to God's Will.



Make Integrity Your Watchword

From “The Best of Success – A Treasury of Inspiration”

In the world of tennis, Eliot Teltscher never became as famous as Jimmy Connors or John McEnroe. Yet during his professional career, from 1977 to 1988, he was consistently ranked among the world's top ten players.

Teltscher began playing tennis at age nine. After high school, he received a tennis scholarship to UCLA, and was named an All-American as a freshman. Then he left college to turn professional. In 1982, he was ranked #6 in the world. He retired as a player in 1988, and currently serves as a National Coach for the United States Tennis Association.

But, despite his many accomplishments, when asked about the highlights of his career, the first thing he usually mentions isn't about victories or awards. Instead, he describes a match he lost, but which speak volumes about him.

In January 1982, playing Vitas Gerulaitis, also a Top-10 player, the latter was at match point in the final set. His last shot barely cleared the net, seemingly out of Teltscher's reach but, somehow, he got his racket on the ball and lofted it over his opponent's head, winning the point.

There was a problem, however, which neither Gerulaitis nor the umpire, nor anyone else realized. But Teltscher did – and nothing else matters. In rushing for that final shot, his racket had barely grazed the net, which violated the rules. Without hesitation, he informed the umpire, costing him the point and the match.

B.C. Forbes, who founded Fourbes Magazine nearly a century ago, once commented that “Integrity is the basis of all true-blue success.” For Eliot Teltscher, he faced a moment when his integrity and his character were at stake, and that was far more important than winning a tennis match. In defeat, he achieved not only a real victory but “true blue success.”



Partial List of Integrity synonyms & related words.

absoluteness, assured decency, blamelessness, character, cleanliness, completeness, decency, embodiment, entirety, erectness, admirable, fairness, forthrightness, fullness, good character, goodness, high ideals, high principles, high-mindedness, honesty, honor, honorableness, clean, faultless, incorruptibility, incorruption, irreproachable, justice, justness, moral excellence, moral strength, morality, nobility, perfection, reputability, respectability, righteousness, self-identity, selfhood, solidity, soul, soundness, stability, stainlessness, straightforwardness, totality, trustworthiness, unadulteration, unimpeachable, unspottedness, uprightness, upstandingness, veracity, virtue, virtuousness, whole, wholeness, worthiness
...Holy

Questions to Focus on:

1 How do you define INTEGRITY? Give an example of INTEGRITY that you have experienced or have seen in others.

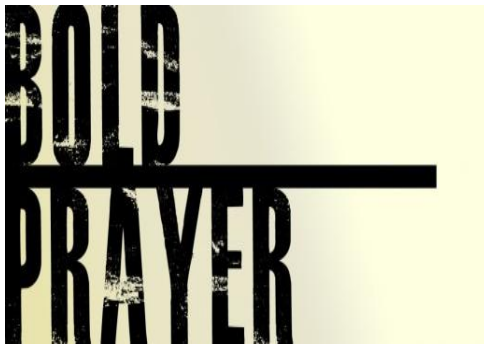
2 When you think of characteristics that you admire most in others, what are they? Where would you rank INTEGRITY in them? Explain.



A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.
We are ordinary men who labor for Christ.

Men's Group Calendar

3/15/2014	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
3/22/2014	CMFNEO CONFERENCE	8 AM St. Joe's Euclid
4/12/2014	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
4/26/2014	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
5/10/2014	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
5/24/2014	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
6/14/2014	Men's Group	7 AM Mass



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself, forgive me, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave. Amen

ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to be a Man of Integrity by:

Creating a daily prayer practice

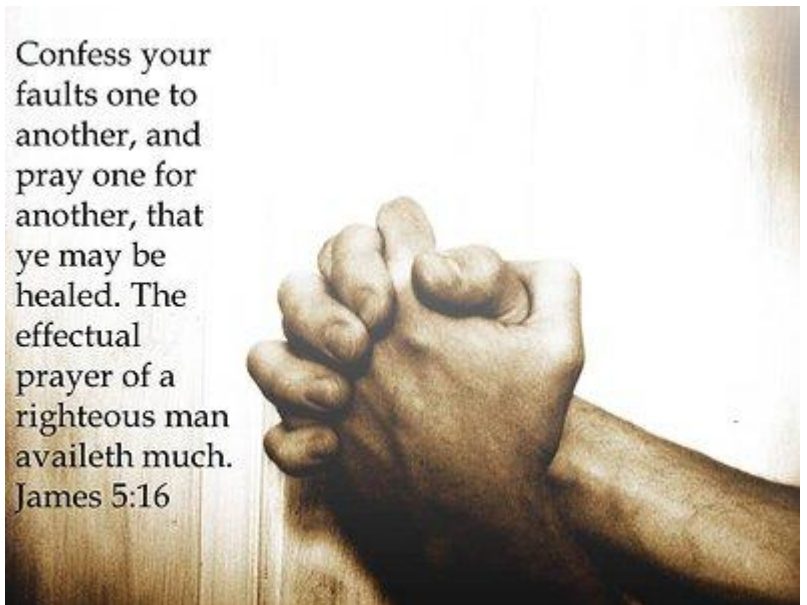
Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence

Asking God for strength to resist temptation and sin

Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends

Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
James 5:16



The Our Father in Different Words

Dearest Father who is everywhere at all moments in time,
Your name is Most Holy, Most Sacred.
Your kingdom is come in our Hearts and Minds.
Your will is throughout the Earth even as it is throughout the universe.
You fill our needs from day to day,
And you forgive us our offenses without reservation.
We must likewise forgive our offenders.
Let us not be lured by things of this Earth.
Have Mercy on us always, keeping us separate us from evil, error and sin.
Because yours are the kingdom, the power and the song of praise.
From all ages, throughout all ages.
Sealed in Faith, Trust, Truth and Love. Amen.

Amended from Expanded translation by Dr. RA Errico - RJ Bradner



*Lord, help me to pray not as an exercise of my will, but a surrender to Yours.
Thank You for Your goodness to me. Amen.*

Forgiveness is the Key to Happiness

Whenever I see someone else as culpable , I am reinforcing my own sense of guilt and unworthiness.

I cannot forgive myself unless I am willing to forgive others. It does not matter what I think anyone has done to me in the past or what I think I may have done. Only through forgiveness can my release from guilt and fear be complete.

Today I choose to let go all my past misperceptions about myself and others. Instead, I will join with others and say:

I see you and myself in the light of True Forgiveness.

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group.



Layman's 10 Commandments

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.
2. So why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large & the Rear View Mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
5. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.