

October 16, 2022

Integrity

by Ken Weliever

Last Thursday evening Norma Jean and I were privileged to attend the Florida College Leadership Dinner and hear former Vice-President Mike Pence share a message about servant-leadership.

Mr. Pence spoke of qualities that have served him well as he's navigated the world of business and politics. From his humble beginnings growing up in a small Indiana town, to a seat in Congress, to the Governors' mansion in Indiana, to the Vice Presidency, Mr. Pence emphasized the importance of faith, family and service.

Underlying the qualities of hard work, persistence, and humility, Mr. Pence spoke of the value of integrity. Of being true to yourself. Of being honest and honorable. Of keeping your word. Of honoring your oath.

Dictionary.com defines integrity as (1) "adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty." (2) the state of being whole, entire, or undiminished:

Integrity is all encompassing. It speaks of one's character. Credibility. Virtue. Sincerity. Goodness. Dependability. Allegiance. Devotion. Fidelity. And moral rectitude.

When one possesses integrity his actions and attitudes adhere to his

words. The ancient Roman playwright Plautus stated it succinctly when he said, "Let deeds match words." The Greek philosopher, Socrates expressed the importance of integrity when he admitted "I would rather that the whole world should be at odds with me, and oppose me, than that I should be at odds with myself and contradict myself."

Today, we sorely need a revival and renewal of personal integrity. In every area of life we witness a failure of integrity. In business. Sports. Politics. And even in religious circles. We can all recall some scandal that revealed a fatal flaw in a leader's character.

Integrity cares about reputation. Builds trust. Facilitates high moral standards. And is formed and forged in life's daily decisions.

Several years ago, while Vice President, Pence was ridiculed by critics for a promise he made his wife Karen, and a policy he has about not spending time alone with other women. Mr. Pence said, "that he never eats alone with a woman other than his wife and that he won't attend events featuring alcohol without her by his side, either." That attitude fortifies and nurtures integrity.

The advice of the wise man will provide an integrity guardrail that will keep us on the right path.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Gospel Meeting - Benchley, October 16-19

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

“Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil” (Prov. 4:25-27).

In John’s Maxwell’s classic book, “Developing the Leader Within You,” he devotes an entire chapter to integrity, saying it is “the most important ingredient of leadership.” Maxwell writes that too often leaders resort to gimmicks, slogans, and mottos to enhance their image, grow their company and influence their followers.

Maxwell reminds us that “what people need is not a motto to say, but a model to follow.” And that “image is what people think we are. Integrity is what we really are.”

As Mr. Pence spoke of the importance for those in public service to be true to their oath of office, I was reminded of what The Preacher said about keeping one’s word.

“When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay” (Eccl. 4:4-5).

Whether it’s the oath of public office, our marriage vows, or our profession that Jesus is the Lord of our life, integrity demands that we faithfully fulfill the duties and obligations to which we have pledged our word.

God not only calls servant leaders to be people of integrity, but every follower of His should develop the self-discipline, virtue, and value of integrity.

“The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him” (Prov. 20:7).

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

Dinah Williams is at home and continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner’s brother) is under treatment for cancer.

Sylvia Stinnett’s brother, Jerome, had surgery and is recovering.

Elaine Kersch is having tests run to diagnose problems with her lungs.

Jim & Dyanne Turner, Jayme Wilson, Elaine Kersch and Lynden Kersch all had covid recently.

Randall Vanaman is home from the hospital after having an infection.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

*“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)*

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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