

Integrity is the Best Policy and What We Need Today – Part II

An Ideal to Strive For

Integrity is difficult to define. Eleven dictionaries carry eleven different definitions. We know integrity when we see it, but we have trouble explaining it.

There is an illusive nature to integrity. It cannot be self-proclaimed, only observed in others. Yet most acts of integrity are performed in private and not subject to public review.

Those who have integrity in large measure have discovered something that the rest of the world must know — that integrity, which many look upon as being comprised of sacrifice, struggle and non-advantageous decision making, actually makes life easier, joyful and powerful.

The Truth Prevails

British historian Arnold Toynbee observed that of 21 notable civilizations, 19 perished "not from external conquest but from the evaporation of belief within."

In his address years ago to the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, Charles H. Brower remarked that "today our country still has a choice. I believe it has always begun to make that choice. I believe it is going back to its old beliefs — such things as ideas, pride, patriotism, loyalty, devotion and even hard work."

Although those words were spoken decades ago, their ring of truth is now being heard.

Curiously, we discount acts of integrity practiced by others, not believing that they can have done what they've done simply because they thought it to be right.

Paradoxically, we're quick to condemn others who vividly display a lack of integrity, all the while overlooking or forgetting our own lapses.

Aug 16th 2017

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