

Workplace Ministry **“Integrity Pulls it all Together”**

In December 1983, The Princeton Religion Research Center published a landmark survey conducted for the *Wall Street Journal* by the Gallop organization. The researchers measured a wide range of moral and ethical behaviors, such as calling in sick when not sick, cheating on income tax, and pilfering company supplies for personal use. The results were disappointing to say the least. What researchers found most startling was that there was no significant difference between the churched and unchurched in their ethics and values on the job.

To quote the researchers:

“These findings...will come as a shock to the religious leaders and underscore the need for religious leaders to channel the new religious interest in America not simply into religious involvement but in deep spiritual commitment!”

I believe Satan’s strategy is to defeat Christians in the workplace, make them ineffective in their workplace witness and divide Christians by keeping them apart. His goal is to create disunity and division within the body of Christ. This is why many cite that they would rather not do business with a Christian. Satan is winning this battle. This is why we need a paradigm shift within the body of Christ among Workplace believers.

What is integrity?

The courage to meet the demand of your purpose

Integrity is a by product of Godly character

Integrity is a must to be considered a child of God and to advance the ministry. It goes hand in hand with your pursuit of Excellence, knowing who you are, Love and Service.

Integrity is consistent Christian character of a person who acts with equal grace and dignity regardless of favorable or adverse conditions.

In secular terms, when people speak the word integrity, we often think of the words ethics, and morality.

Ethics –refers to the standard of right and wrong, good and evil

Morality – is a lived standard of right and wrong, good and evil

Integrity – means “sound” completed integration of ethics and morality

To the extent that a person’s ethics and morality are not integrated, that person lacks integrity.

Example - Joshua and the Gibeonites (Joshua 10:1-15)

- Joshua compromised his leadership when he made a treaty with the Gibeonites
- But once he made a covenant with them, he knew he had to keep it
- Integrity means that you keep your oath, regardless of the cost

Biblical Ethics

- The Bible teaches as Christians we must live by a high and Holy ethic
- For a Christian to have integrity he or she must live by a biblical ethic

How is this evident?

Ephesians 4:1 – Christ is in us

Galatians 2:20 – He wants to live through us

2 Corinthians 5:20 – we are called as representatives

Ephesians 1:23 – as members of the church, we are his body

Why is integrity important?

- God is integrity
- We live our entire lives before the face of God
- Integrity in all things precede all else (Max Dupree)
- Not practicing and manifest integrity is inconsistent with the dignity and destiny we've been chosen
- If you desire to please God integrity is a must
- A person may forget 90% of what a leader says but they will never forget how he lives (1 Timothy 4:15-16)
 - The priorities of Godly leaders are summed up in his personal holiness and public teaching. By being very careful to live a Godly life and his faithful teaching of the word, he remained an effective instrument

In many cases, we are the closest image of Christ that our counterparts in the workplace will experience. It is imperative we “wear the face of God” in ALL we do. Integrity is essential for Christians to function as Image bearers in the workplace. We are required to live a life of integrity no matter the cost. By not practicing integrity in the workplace, we diminish our witness of God, fail to glorify Him in our work, and lose the ability to effectively answer His call to be an effective instrument. Are you willing to answer the call? Are you willing to be a person of integrity in all things? Do you desire to live a life (not just in the church) that is pleasing to God?

Make the decision today that you will bear His image at all times. You will be blessed, and your sphere of influence in your workplace will also be blessed.