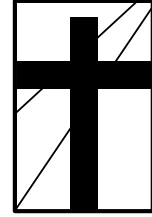


The Chaplain's Chapter



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INTEGRITY

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?" - Luke 16:10, 12

All sin is equal in the eyes of the Lord. In His eyes, we are just as guilty for putting the hotel towels in our suitcase as we are in robbing a bank. If you cheat on your taxes, or cheat on your spouse, the consequences may be different, but the sin is the same. The majority of people who maintain a "Christian" appearance to others, flirt with their own integrity every day. Honesty has always been rare. Diogenes, the ancient Greek philosopher, lit a candle in the daytime and went searching for an honest man. Pascal said he didn't expect to "meet three honest men in a century." The Institute of Behavioral Motivation has found that 97% of us lie 3 times a day, on average. When we are all alone, that is when our integrity is put to the test. An example my CO uses all the time is the person who leaving the grocery store, checks their change as they get into their car, discover that the clerk gave them too much change and drives off anyway. I tell the story of a plane trip from ONT to PDX (Portland) when I was International Air Academy's School Director. We trained all kinds of airline employees, up to Flight Attendant. So, I always paid attention to them, and kept an eye out for graduates. Anyway, the guy next to me orders a drink, and puts his \$4 out on the tray. The Flight Attendant walked up and down the aisle several times after serving the drink, obviously forgetting to pick up the money. After a few minutes, the guy picks his money back up and puts it in his pocket. What's the price of integrity? Well, he sold his for only \$4.

Job's integrity on the other hand, cost him everything. In the two assaults by Satan, the first causing him the loss of his 10 children and the second causing him great physical pain, he remained the servant that the Lord had described as "*a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil.*" After everything Job suffered he "*held fast to his integrity*". His reward? God restored him to twice as much as he had before. He gave him another family and 140 more years so that he could watch his children and grandchildren grow for 4 generations. Remember, it was Job who said "Naked I came into this world, and naked I shall leave." In other words from scripture "*Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.*" - 1 Timothy 6:6-7. **EXCEPT FOR YOUR WORD!** If God can trust you, He will use you!

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"AID...HONOR...COMFORT"

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