

## Chris's Corner: Integrity

### **in·teg·ri·ty**, noun

1. adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty.

I am not sure if this topic is relevant in today's world, but it's highly relevant to me personally. I know it sound cliché but at the end of the day or the end of your life, you may be rich, poor, successful, whatever but if you can't look yourself in the mirror what price have you paid?

I make it a practice in personal and business dealings to be honest. To not lie, mislead or take advantage of my family, friends, acquaintances, customers, employers, suppliers or whomever I have an interaction with or relationship with.

I am not on some moral high ground or pulpit here, but if I hope to expect the same treatment for myself, I have to readily agree to treat everyone else the way I expect to be treated.

I try to tell things the way I perceive them or expect them to be. If I make a mistake in my judgment, I point out my error and correct myself and make amends if required.

What would the world truly be like if everyone thought and acted this way? A lot of time would be saved, that is for sure. You could take everything at face value, with no second guessing. If you tell the truth you do have to make an effort to remember or cover up your lies.

Why isn't the world like this? I hear it is a dog eat dog world out there and if you don't do what you have to do to get ahead, you won't. Get ahead of what? Make more money, to buy more things to impress people you don't even respect?

Everyone does it? Would we allow our children to use this as an excuse for their transgressions? My parents never bought this reasoning and I suspect their thinking carried over to me.

Just for fun, try practicing radical honesty.

- Be straightforward with people.
- Give honest answers to honest questions.
- Do not mislead.
- Do not try to lie yourself out of mistakes.
- If you don't know, say you don't know, but you will find out.
- Be a person of honor and integrity.
- Try to do what you say you are going to do and if you find out, for whatever reason, you can't, regardless of why, you have to deal with it.

The most important factor in any relationship, and everything is a relationship, is trust. Is this person, a person of integrity? Without trust you have nothing.