

Integrity—A Rotary Core Value

Delivered at the Club's weekly luncheon

by Steve Pierce

Feb. 3, 2010

INTEGRITY

THOUGH SOMEONE ONCE SAID, **"DEFINING INTEGRITY IS LIKE SHOVELING FOG,"**

IN THE WORDS OF "WIKIPEDIA," IT MAY COMPRISE THE PERSONAL INNER SENSE OF "WHOLENESS" DERIVING FROM HONESTY AND CONSISTENCY OF CHARACTER.

AS SUCH, ONE MAY JUDGE THAT OTHERS "HAVE INTEGRITY" TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY BEHAVE ACCORDING TO THE VALUES, BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES THEY CLAIM TO HOLD. **THIS** IS A DIRECT CHALLENGE FOR **US**.

QUOTES ON INTEGRITY

-- "FAME IS VAPOR, POPULARITY AN ACCIDENT, RICHES TAKE WINGS. ONLY ONE THING ENDURES AND THAT IS CHARACTER."
-HORACE GREELY

-- "REAL INTEGRITY IS DOING THE RIGHT THING, KNOWING THAT NOBODY'S GOING TO KNOW WHETHER YOU DID IT OR NOT."
-OPRAH WINFREY

-- "**CHARACTER** IS DOING THE RIGHT THING WHEN **NOBODY'S LOOKING**"
-JC WATTS

-- "BLESSED IS THE SERVANT WHO LOVES HIS BROTHER AS MUCH WHEN HE IS SICK AND USELESS AS WHEN HE IS WELL AND CAN BE OF SERVICE TO HIM. AND BLESSED IS HE WHO LOVES HIS BROTHER AS WELL WHEN HE IS AFAR OFF AS WHEN HE IS BY HIS SIDE, AND WHO WOULD SAY NOTHING BEHIND HIS BACK HE MIGHT NOT, IN LOVE, SAY BEFORE HIS FACE."
-ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

-- "NO MAN SHOULD ADVOCATE A COURSE IN PRIVATE THAT HE'S ASHAMED TO ADMIT IN PUBLIC."

-GEORGE MCGOVERN

TODAY'S "INTEGRITY" TEST [TURN PAGE]...

ASK YOURSELF:

1) DO YOU ALWAYS TRY TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT EVEN WHEN IT IS COSTLY OR DIFFICULT?

2) ARE YOU TRUE TO YOUR *VERY BEST* SELVES?
DO YOU LIVE UP TO THE HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARDS?

3) ARE YOU TRUE TO YOUR VALUES WHEN TEMPTED?
HOW FAR WOULD YOU COMPROMISE YOUR PRINCIPALS TO GET AHEAD?

4) HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED AFTER YOU DIE AND ARE YOU THAT KIND OF PERSON?

5) IN WHAT WAY IS YOUR INTEGRITY YOUR GIFT TO YOURSELF?

6) IN WHAT WAY IS IT YOUR GIFT TO THE WORLD?

7) DOES THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT HOW YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR LIFE?

8) HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE PHRASE "LET YOUR LIFE SPEAK?" WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS?

9) IS BEING THOUGHT OF AS SOMEONE WITH INTEGRITY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

10) HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF SOMEONE ACCUSED YOU OF NOT HAVING INTEGRITY?

11) IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU BENEFIT FROM MAKING CHOICES THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH YOUR HIGHEST VALUES?

HERE ARE SOME WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE WHOM THE INTERNET FEELS
HAD INTEGRITY:

WINSTON CHURCHILL
DWIGHT EISENHOWER
THEODORE ROOSEVELT
FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE
SOJOURNER TRUTH
MARK TWAIN
MARTIN LUTHER KING

FINALLY, I'D LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH SOME MORE QUOTES:

-- "THERE AREN'T ANY GREAT MEN. THERE ARE JUST GREAT
CHALLENGES THAT ORDINARY MEN ARE FORCED TO MEET."

-WILLIAM F. HALSEY

-- NOTHING MORE COMPLETELY BAFFLES ONE WHO IS FULL OF
TRICKS AND DUPLICITY THAN STRAIGHT FORWARD AND SIMPLE
INTEGRITY IN ANOTHER. [CHARLES CALEB COLTON](#)

-- THE LORD DOESN'T ASK ABOUT YOUR ABILITY, ONLY YOUR
AVAILABILITY; AND, IF YOU PROVE YOUR DEPENDABILITY, THE
LORD WILL INCREASE YOUR CAPABILITY. [ANONYMOUS](#)

-- THE SLOW MAN WITH INTEGRITY WILL ULTIMATELY CATCH
THE SWIFT ONE WHO HAS NONE.

-[ANONYMOUS](#)

--THERE IS NOTHING MORE LIKELY TO DRIVE A MAN MAD, THAN
THE BEING UNABLE TO GET RID OF THE IDEA OF THE
DISTINCTION BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG, AND AN OBSTINATE,
CONSTITUTIONAL PREFERENCE OF THE TRUE TO THE AGREEABLE.

-[WILLIAM HAZLITT](#)

-- I **CANNOT** AND WILL NOT **RECANT** ANYTHING, OR GO AGAINST
... HERE I STAND, I CAN DO NO OTHER, **SO HELP ME GOD.**
AMEN.

-**MARTIN LUTHER ...**