

Us Today : The Absence of Integrity in Our Culture Today

Integrity is a desirable quality that all people should strive for. But it seems that people nowadays don't have as much integrity as they should. It seems that it's specifically the youth of this generation. We are losing touch with what integrity really means and how important it is to our reputation. Integrity isn't just something you do one time or another, it's an entire way of life.

So what does it mean to live with integrity? Living with integrity isn't only being nice or honest or trustworthy; it's living out your kindness, honesty, responsibility, and trustworthiness in an intentional and consistent manner. For instance, a person with integrity lives with a good moral posture not only toward his or her friends but also toward his or her enemies.

Furthermore, a life of integrity takes on both an inner and an outer movement. For example, a person with integrity doesn't simply walk by a poor homeless man sitting on the sidewalk and give him a dirty look, but instead he or she says hello and attempts to bring goodness into the hurting person's life.

But what's wrong with our culture today? Instead of this culture being full of good, encouraging things, it's full of lies and false lifestyles. The internet, our main source for news and communication, is filled with bad lifestyle images, manipulating the grotesque to make it look appealing. These images are not just on the internet, however; they are everywhere, flooding our television, newsstands, billboards, and sometimes even schools. Some people think that companies have integrity but the reality is that many companies are just trying to make the most money. There is even less integrity in the actual workplace; for example, sometimes a boss will treat an employee that he or she doesn't want there very poorly so that the employee quits instead of getting fired so that the company doesn't have to pay for benefits. Even people who society holds up as models of integrity often fail in this moral character: there are some "crooked cops" out there, and not every judge is perfect.

How can we bring back the importance of integrity? It would be virtually impossible for one person to bring back integrity, but if we all live out our integrity, we would set an example for others to follow. Show integrity in everything you do, especially when around others. For example, if you knock over your mom's lamp, don't lie and say you didn't do it. Take responsibility for your actions. Don't point fingers; that shows that you can't handle the responsibility for the things that you do, and people won't trust you to do things for them.

What would bringing back integrity do for our culture? If we could bring back integrity, we would have a better world and people's attitudes toward one another would be more cheerful because everyone could trust one another. This way, people would be less cynical of other people and instead be more friendly to everyone. If everyone had integrity then we could trust any stranger instead of being scared like most people are. I leave you again with the advice of setting an example of integrity so that our world may be more beautiful once again.