

## Live a Life of Integrity

By Bill Moyer

The news today is filled with stories about well-known people who have fallen from grace. These lapses and errors in judgement from our leaders illustrate very clearly the erosion of values and integrity that exists today.

Whether it's a politician who has an affair with a staff member or a religious leader who embezzles money, these high profile stories make a profound impact on our future leaders. It appears in the news like these people have lost their integrity all at once, when in reality we lose our integrity by one degree of dishonesty at a time. Have you ever padded your expense account? Have you ever copied a piece of software for your computer? Did you ever tell someone you did not get a message when you really did, but simply didn't return the call?

All of us are leaders in some area of our lives, whether in a formal position at work, in our family, or in a volunteer capacity. As a leader it's important to remember that "Everything you say or do counts" and "you can never not lead."

*"Living a life of integrity is not an easy thing to do. We are constantly faced with temptations and short cuts in all areas of our lives."*

Integrity with your spouse is total commitment to your marriage and total honesty in your communication. Integrity to other people is to always do what you say you will do. Integrity to your friends is to simply be who you are and not wear a mask of deceit. Integrity at work is a full day's work for a full days pay and treating customers, coworkers, and your boss with respect.



*"The ultimate test of leadership is to become a person of integrity... You can live a life of integrity!"*

– Bill Moyer

Remember that people do not forget integrity mistakes. Leaders who sustain trust are consistent and maintain a high level of integrity.

**What are some of the foundation principles to be a person of integrity?**

- ▲ Always err on the side of fairness.
- ▲ Stand up for what you believe in.
- ▲ Keep your promises.
- ▲ Live what you teach.
- ▲ Do what you say you will even if it hurts.

Living a life of integrity is not an easy thing to do. We are constantly faced with temptations and short cuts in all areas of our lives. The ultimate test of leadership is to become a person of integrity. The impact you make on others will be judged solely on who you are and not on what you have accomplished. You are responsible for the choices you make in life! You are responsible for your success and your failure! Take personal responsibility for your life and all of the abundance of the world can be yours. You can live a life of integrity!

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