

INTEGRITY

George M. Stahnke 05/13/2005

INTRODUCTION: This is not intended to be a thorough study on the subject of integrity by a short overview of its importance in our personal, relational and business lives. People from various walks of life affirm not only its importance but also the absolute necessity of integrity. The biblical references below the short bio's have been added by me are not intended to imply the spiritual condition of the person quoted but to bear witness to the validity of integrity itself.

INTEGRITY DEFINED: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition:* **in-teg-ri-ty ~ n:** Steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code.

Merriam-Webster Online Thesaurus: **1** conduct that conforms to an accepted standard of right and wrong <demonstrated his *integrity* by taking responsibility for his actions> **2** devotion to telling the truth <her *integrity* is such that she tells the truth even when people least want to hear it> **3** faithfulness to high moral standards <a politician of great honesty and *integrity*>

Synonym see Honesty: **2 a** : fairness and straightforwardness of conduct **b** : adherence to the facts :

Synonyms: HONESTY, HONOR, INTEGRITY, PROBITY mean uprightness of character or action. HONESTY implies a refusal to lie, steal, or deceive in any way. HONOR suggests an active or anxious regard for the standards of one's profession, calling, or position. INTEGRITY implies trustworthiness and incorruptibility to a degree that one is incapable of being false to a trust, responsibility, or pledge. PROBITY implies tried and proven honesty or integrity.

"A person is not given integrity. It results from the relentless pursuit of honesty at all times."
—Author Unknown

Personal Integrity:

Psalms 15:1 - 5 (NIV) ¹LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? ²He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart ³and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, ⁴who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, ⁵who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things will never be shaken.

Psalms 15:2 (NASB) He who walks with **integrity**, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart.

"I cannot find language of sufficient energy to convey my sense of the sacredness of private integrity" —Ralph Waldo Emerson

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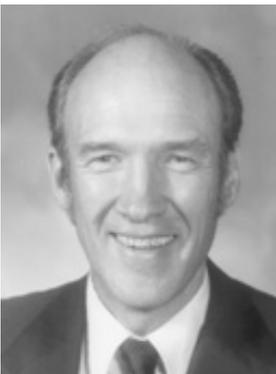


Born in 1803 to a conservative Unitarian minister, from a long line of ministers, and a quietly devout mother, Waldo--who dropped the "Ralph" in college--was a middle son of whom relatively little was expected. His father died when he was eight, the first of many premature deaths which would shape his life--all three brothers, his first wife at 20, and his older son at 5. His undergraduate career at Harvard was not illustrious, and his studies at the Harvard Divinity School were truncated by vision problems, but he was ordained a minister of the Second Church in Boston, shortly before marrying Ellen Tucker in 1829. He resigned in 1832 after her death from tuberculosis, troubled by theological doctrines such as the Lord's Supper, and traveled extensively in Europe, returning to begin a career of lecturing. In 1835 he married Lydia Jackson; they lived in Concord and had four children while he settled into his life of conversations, reading and writing, and lecturing, which furnished a comfortable income.

Psalms 101:2 (TMNT) I'm finding my way down the road of right living, but how long before you show up? I'm doing the very best I can, and I'm doing it at home, where it counts.

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching." —Author Unknown

"If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters."
—Alan K. Simpson



A Senator from Wyoming; born in Denver, Denver County, Colo., September 2, 1931; attended Cody, Wyo. public schools; graduated, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo., 1954; graduated, University of Wyoming Law School 1958; admitted to the Wyoming bar in 1958 and commenced practice in Cody; served in the United States Army, Infantry 1954-1956; assistant attorney general of Wyoming 1958-1959; city attorney, Cody, Wyo.; United States Commissioner 1959-1969; member, Wyoming house of representatives 1964-1977; elected as a Republican to the United States Senate, November 7, 1978, for the six-year term commencing January 3, 1979; subsequently appointed by the Governor, January 1, 1979, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Clifford P. Hansen for the term ending January 3, 1979; reelected in 1984 and 1990 and served from January 1, 1979, to January 3, 1997; was not a candidate for reelection in 1996; Republican whip (1985-1995); chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs (One Hundred Fourth Congress); visiting lecturer, Kennedy School of Government, Shorenstein Center, and Director of the Institute of Politics 1997-2000; commissioner, American Battle Monuments Commission 2001-; co-chairman, Continuity in Government Commission 2002-.

Relational Integrity:

"There can be no friendship without confidence; and no confidence, without integrity"
—Author Unknown

"Integrity: A name is the blueprint of the thing we call character. You ask, What's in a name? I answer, Just about everything you do." —Rabbis Morris Mandel

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A Jewish Rabbis and author: Recipes for better living, How to be married--and happy, Treasures from the Torah

"Live so that when your children think of fairness and integrity, they think of you."

—H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



As owner and creative director of an advertising agency in Nashville, Tennessee, H. Jackson Brown, Jr. spent his days composing music and creating TV and print campaigns to promote his client's products. But it was simple words of wisdom gathered from other people and his own experiences that made him a best-selling author. His 33 books have been translated into 35 languages and have sold millions of copies worldwide. They have spawned calendars, posters, apparel items, daily journals, greeting cards, audiocassettes, screensavers and even fortune cookies. But his success can best be measured in the response from his readers. Tens of thousands of letters have poured in from people all over the world. Feedback ranges from the simple, "I enjoyed your book and I read a page or two every night before I go to bed" to the humbling "your book convinced our family to adopt a special needs child."

Proverbs 20:7 (NASB) A righteous man who walks in his integrity—How blessed are his sons after him.

"A life lived with integrity - even if it lacks the trappings of fame and fortune is a shining star in whose light others may follow in the years to come." —Denis Waitley



Denis Waitley is one of America's most respected authors, keynote lecturers and productivity consultants on high performance human achievement. He is a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, and former Navy pilot, he holds a doctorate degree in human behavior. Dr. Waitley is a founding director of the National Council on Self-Esteem and the President's Council on Vocational Education, and recently received the "Youth Flame Award" from the National Council on Youth Leadership for his outstanding contribution to high school youth leadership.

Proverbs 19:1 (NASB) Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.

Integrity in business:

Proverbs 11:1 - Proverbs 11:3 (NASB) ¹ A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight. ² When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom. ³ The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them.

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"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." —Douglas Adams

Douglas Adams was born in Cambridge in March 1952, educated at Brentwood School, Essex and St John's College, Cambridge where, in 1974 he gained a BA (and later an MA) in English literature. A science fiction writer, he sold over 15 million books in the UK, the US and Australia and was also a best seller in German, Swedish and many other languages.



"Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity." —W. Clement Stone

American businessman and philanthropist (b. May 4, 1902, Chicago, Ill.—d. Sept. 3, 2002, Evanston, Ill.), made a fortune in insurance but became better known for promoting his philosophy of success and for his support of political and social causes. He espoused what he called P.M.A. (positive mental attitude) as the key to achievement and wealth. His father died before he was 3 years old, and he was selling newspapers on street corners at the age of 6. By age 13, he had his own newsstand. His mother worked for an insurance company, and the son dropped out of high school to start selling policies. (He later earned his degree.) Soon he signed up salespeople to work for him, eventually building his own company, which became Combined Insurance Co. of America, located on North Clark Street in Uptown and listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1980.

Proverbs 10:9 (NASB) He who walks in integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will be found out.

"The foundation stones for a balanced success are honesty, character, integrity, faith, love and loyalty." —Zig Zigler



Zig Ziglar truly is the epitome of the American Dream come true. Early on in life, his father's death compelled him to be not only hard working, but compassionate. For all his current success, Ziglar did not inherit his professional status, nor was it an accident. After struggling early in his sales career, this Yazoo City, Mississippi native put in the time, discipline, and energy to become a sales champion. If one were to look for Ziglar's motto, he'd probably say something like "Everything in life that you want is yours as long as you help enough people get what they want". Over the last 30-plus years, businesses and organizations have implemented this precise principle and grown more profitable by working to improve the lives of their most important element: their people. Zig Zigler has been featured in The New York Times and has appeared on "The Today Show", "The Tomorrow Show", "The Hour of Power", "20/20", "60 Minutes" and The Phil Donahue TV shows.

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"The glue that holds all relationships together - including the relationship between the leader and the led is trust, and trust is based on integrity." —Brian Tracy



Born in Canada, Tracy grew up in Pomona, California. He dropped out of high school and spent about a dozen years working odd jobs. Moving from town to town and country to country, he took jobs washing dishes, cars and floors, toiling on farms and in factories, pumping gas, stacking lumber, digging wells, and serving as a galley boy on a freighter-and lost them all. At times, he was desperately poor and even homeless; living in his car in the winter and sleeping next to it in the summer. Brian Tracy is one of the world's most celebrated and successful speakers, a prolific best-selling author, and a leading consultant on personal and professional development. Brian Tracy is now Chairman of Brian Tracy International, a leading consulting and development firm with affiliates throughout the United States and in 31 other countries. His home base is Solana Beach, California.

Psalms 26:1 (TMNT) Clear my name, GOD; I've kept an honest shop. I've thrown in my lot with you, GOD, and I'm not budging.