

Character Trait May 8th – 12th is Sincerity

Proverbs 11:3, “The integrity of the upright guides them”

Character: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Sincerity: Doing what is right with transparent motives.

Derivation sin•cer•i•ty n 1: honesty of mind or intention 2: freedom from simulation or hypocrisy 3: genuineness

Weekly Verse: Romans 12:9 “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”

Bible Story: Josiah enacts reforms in 2 Kings 22:1 to 23:30

Quote: “A sincere compliment is music to another’s ears.”

Application: Speak and Act with Discretion Discretion is “recognizing and avoiding words, actions, and attitudes that could bring undesirable consequences.” A discrete person knows who can be trusted, what needs to be said, and how, when, and where to say it. Choose your words, actions, and timing carefully so that you can accomplish your mission and avoid misunderstanding.

Practice Deference Deference is “limiting my freedom so I do not offend the tastes of those around me.” Deference does not surrender sincerely held beliefs. Rather, it demonstrates respect for others and their perspectives. Instead of making your opinions a source of unnecessary irritation, express your views with consideration for those around you.

Exercise Joyfulness Joyfulness is “maintaining a good attitude, even when faced with unpleasant conditions.” It takes discipline to stay on course in the face of pressures, weariness, and distractions. Sincerity requires honesty about feelings and commitment to beliefs. Maintain a positive attitude as you fulfill your commitments, even when it contradicts how you feel at the moment.

Discussion Questions:

1. Is it possible to do what is right with the wrong motives?
2. If someone were to ask your 5 closest friends whether you were a sincere person, what would your friends say?