

## **Character Trait May 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 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:** Matthew 6:1 Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

**Bible Story:** Matthew 6 gives examples of what it means to act with correct motives.

**Quote:** “Sincerity is not only effective and honorable; it is also much less difficult than commonly supposed.”

**Application: 1. Realize that sincerity comes from the heart.** Whatever you say or do, it is really important to mean to say or do it. You can't be sincere if you say you love chocolate when you actually hate it. You can't be sincere if you praise someone but deep inside you dislike them.

**2. Be genuine.** Acting the same way alone as if you doing it in the presence of other people is another way to become a sincere person. If you try hard to be what you think others want to see in you, it will be insincere and you'll spend lots of time projecting yourself as a person that isn't a real part of yourself. It will be hard work, but the result won't be sincere.

**3. Do good without reward.** When you do something good, don't expect a reward. Giving is an act of an expression of your genuine concern for others, a sincerity and interest in other people.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Is there someone in your life who models sincerity in a way that makes you want to be like them?
2. Has there been anyone in the news lately that you felt was sincere? You noted that they acted with transparent motives?