

SIX REWARDS OF A LIFE OF INTEGRITY:

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In a 2007 (March) sermon given to Dallas Theological Seminary Students titled, "The Long-term Rewards of Integrity," (www.dts.edu), Dr. Charles Swindoll gave a powerful message on personal integrity. As a seasoned man of God whose life has been one of utter integrity Dr. Swindoll stated, "The greatest challenge in ministry will be telling the truth." Near the end of the sermon he asks, "What can you anticipate if you will live a life of authentic (not perfect) integrity?" In other words, what are the rewards of a life well-lived? He lists six of them:

1. The sustained cultivation of character (virtue).
2. The continued relief of a clear conscience.
3. The personal delight of intimacy with God. "A transparent honest soul is a haven for the spirit of God."
4. The priceless inheritance of a lingering legacy.
5. The rare privilege of being a mentor.
6. The crowning reward of finishing well.

On the other hand, there are "seven subtle siphons" that will keep you from a rewarding life of integrity:

1. Words without actions.
2. Business without purpose.
3. Calendars without a Sabbath.
4. Relationships without mutual nourishment.
5. Personality without accountability.
6. Giftedness without humility.
7. Biblical theology without personal integrity.

Thank you, Dr. Swindoll, for these insights of wisdom. Indeed, may we make it our singular ambition in moment-by-moment decision-making in our daily living to choose what will be most pleasing to our Lord, our God, our Master, and King! Help us to mortify these siphons and be all that You have called us to be in Your Word. Help us to turn away from duplicitous thinking, pride, leading people on with false impressions, spinning or even avoiding the plain truth, and failing to uphold our commitments. Instead, cultivate in us an enduring passion for honesty and gentleness, truth and humility, authenticity and transparency, and peace and forgiveness; help us to live for you. May this work first begin within us.

"To have followers one must have their confidence. Hence, the supreme quality for a leader is unquestionable integrity." ~ President Dwight Eisenhower.