

9th Grade Devotional 1



We all want to be around people we can trust. People who will tell us the truth. People who will do the right thing. People in whom we have a confident expectation that they will act with integrity. It should be a goal of each of us to not only be around people like that but to BE A PERSON like that.

How can we become a person that others can trust? Here are two suggestions that seem simple to understand, but prove far more difficult to practice.

1. Always tell the truth. **Ephesians 4:25**

²⁵ *Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak truth each one with his neighbor. For we are members of one another.*

We can read the story of Ananias and Sapphira in **Acts 5:1-11**. In a nutshell, they were a married couple who were a part of the early church in Jerusalem. They sold a piece of land and said they were giving the entire proceeds to the church, when they were, in fact, holding back a portion for themselves. As a result of their lie, they each fell dead at the feet of the Apostle Peter. He made it clear that the issue was not that they held back part of the money. The land belonged to them so the price they received for it belonged to them as well. But because they lied about what they were doing with the money, they brought punishment on themselves.

People take note as to whether or not you tell the truth. If you always tell the truth, you never have to worry about your story being different than it was the last time. You create the expectation that you can be trusted.

2. Do the right thing. **Proverbs 20:11**

¹¹ *Even a child makes himself known by his doings, whether his work is pure, and whether it is right.*

Ephesians 6:1

¹ *Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right.*

You will continuously find yourself in situations where you will have the option to choose to do what is right or choose to do what is wrong. Often the thing that is wrong will be more appealing. It will seem to be to your advantage. It will look more fun and more profitable. But the right thing is always the right thing and, in the end, will deliver great rewards both in this life and the one to come. As you consistently choose to do the right thing, you will develop a reputation for being one that people can trust.

Always tell the truth and always do the right thing and you earn the trust of your parents as well as all the other people in your life.

Parents:

Talk to your student about the importance you place on honesty. If there are issues of trust between you, talk about ways that they can rebuild that trust with you.