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Integrity

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The word “integrity” has evolved from the Latin word for “whole”. Integrity means to be a whole person by being true to yourself (core values) and to others (honoring the person and the relationship). People act with integrity by speaking the truth and acting truthfully (keeping promises and living up to appropriate expectations).

My Dad had a home office. On the office walls were pictures of his seven children, sales award plaques, photos with colleagues at company conventions and golf outings - and a poem - which was his credo as a salesman (and husband, father, son, brother and active church member).

Throughout the years, the poem has grown to a prominent place in my mind and I hope, the actions of my daily life.

I find that whether I am counseling an adult with work related problems, a couple questioning their ability to communicate or love, or a family working through profound difficulties, the message of this poem from my Dad’s office is frequently applicable.

The Man In The Glass

**When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what THAT man has to say.**

For it isn’t your Father or Mother or Wife

**Whose judgement upon you must pass;
The fellow whose verdict counts most is your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.**

**Some people may think you’re a straight-shoot’n chum
And call you a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you’re only a bum
If you can’t look him straight in the eye.**

**He’s the fellow to please, never mind all the rest
For he’s with you clear up to the end,
And you’ve passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in the glass is your friend.**

**You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass,
But you final reward will be heartache and tears
If you’ve cheated the man in the glass.**