

APOSTOLIC CHARACTER: Integrity

Apostolic leadership is not just about carrying a mantle. A person can be in deep sin and still operate in their mantle, as well as their spiritual gifts. Good personal character is critical for the apostolic leader to be successful and to enable them hold the people they oversee with honour and veracity.

There would be no need for Paul to give Timothy¹ and Titus² a detailed set of character traits for Elders and Deacons if mantle and gifting were all that was required for a Kingdom leader. Check the list out – they are quite eye-opening.

Integrity is one of these essential characters that people look for in a leader and are drawn to.

Integrity has been described as the combination of the following traits:

- *Truthfulness*
- *Reliability*
- *Promise-keeping*
- *Taking responsibility for personal behaviour*

Ross Campbell MD in his book “Kids In Danger” notes that as a Christian counsellor he has observed a correlation between the lack of integrity and anger and rebellion:

*“Poor management of anger and anti-authority attitudes are the enemies of integrity. The person who is rebelling against authority is tempted to lie, to break promises, and then to excuse bad behavior.”*³

So a leader-in-training really needs to work on their anger elimination and on developing pro-authority attitudes so that their development in integrity isn't short circuited.

A second area of training for growth in integrity is in the matter of taking responsibility for your actions – a trait that is sadly missing in our litigious Western culture.

Ross Campbell writes:

“Integrity is in short supply in society, and nowhere is this more evident than on the political scene which has become a picture of unkept pledges and disregard of the public. Basic trustworthiness, where a person's word “is as good as gold” seems to be a thing of the past among public persons.

But it isn't only the politicians who are at fault.

*When did you last hear someone take full responsibility for his or her actions? Taking responsibility means facing the fact that we may be wrong, in opinion or behavior. It means constantly evaluating our behavior and being willing to correct it when we need to. If we fail to do this, we end up blaming others.”*⁴

Work on your character according to the lists in Timothy and Titus, but also consider integrity as an essential component of who you are as a person. You'll find that if you develop integrity **now**, it will be a key feature of your quality apostolic leadership when you are released to lead in the future.

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12-6-2015

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1 – 1 Timothy 3:2-13

2 – Titus 1:5-9

3 – Ross Campbell MD (1995) “Kids in Danger: Training your Child to Tame the Destructive Power of Anger”, Victor Books: Wheaton, IL. p:10

4 – Ross Campbell MD (1995) “Kids in Danger: Training your Child to Tame the Destructive Power of Anger”, Victor Books: Wheaton, IL. p:26