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“The Great Cathedral”

Back in the Middle Ages (1200-1600 A.D.) a great cathedral was being built by many skilled laborers. One day a strange man came to town and asked each of the men what they were doing.

One man answered, "I have to lay this brick to feed my nagging wife and my many ungrateful children." Another answered by saying, "I'm just trying to pass the time until I die and at the same time keep myself afloat."

Another man said, "I'm following my father's footsteps and doing what I'm told." An old man answered, "I am a mason, this is what I do." Yet another man was heard saying, "I do this because I have many debts to pay."

Then the stranger saw a young man laying brick who was working feverishly unlike the other workers. Intrigued, the stranger questioned this young man next.

After being questioned, the young man stopped, stared at the yet unfinished building and answered by saying, "I am taking part in the greatest building project in history. A cathedral unlike any other in the world. One of surpassing beauty and size. This cathedral will be the greatest the world has ever seen."

He continued, "I'm only laying the block, but my efforts will help this great cathedral to stand the test of time so future generations can marvel at and appreciate its awesome beauty."

Needless to say, it's not what you have to do, what you want to do or what you think you should do, but how you do all things.

Integrity is the quality or state of being of sound moral principle; uprightness, honesty, and sincerity.

Integrity plays a critical part in quality decisions, thoughts and actions. It will be obvious in how you act and react to expected and unexpected circumstances.

As his answer depicted, the young man adhered to a high standard of professional conduct and honesty, a true sign of integrity. Just as he was helping to build a cathedral that was to stand the test of time, so too, integrity is something that a person or a company must build and maintain during a lifetime.

After a while of on-going decisions guided by integrity, people begin to take notice.



The following story was adapted with permission from the author, C. Zach Hidalgo. It appears in its original format in an article entitled "Integrity" as found on www.webweevers.com.