**HONESTY**

**By**

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Honesty is a virtue of special importance for all leaders. People don’t expect leaders to be perfect but they expect them to be honest. A leader who is dishonest will have positional power but no moral influence. However, many leaders see cheating as a requisite for success and survival. They believe that the end justifies the means and that the only real sin is getting caught.

**COMMON FORMS OF DISHONEST PRACTICES**

* Bribe taking
* Filing false income tax returns
* Stealing the organization’s time, money, equipment and supplies
* Calling in sick for work when they are feeling well
* Cheating on exams
* Stealing towels from hotels
* Inflating medical claims
* Writing up false monthly reports
* Pastors conducting business sidelines in the names of their spouses
* Studying and doing personal work while on the job
* Using the organization’s phone to make personal calls
* Telling lies to look good in the eyes of others
* Accepting responsibility for things
* Stealing the belongings of co-workers

**CONSEQUENCES OF DISHONESTY AMONG LEADERS**

* Loss of enthusiasm and conviction
* A guilty conscience
* Loss of effectiveness
* Lack of conviction and productivity
* Pretense
* Loss of trust and respect by followers
* Impeding the organization’s progress
* A broken relationship with God
* Loss of spiritual power and influence

**WAYS TO MAINTAIN HONESTY**

* Live within your means
* Seek to model Christ
* Never engage in one dishonest practice. Once you start it becomes easy for you to continue.
* Entertain only honest thoughts
* Choose to die than to dishonor God.