

Character Trait for April 22-28 is Sincerity

Proverbs 11:3, “The integrity of the upright guides them”

CHARACTER: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Sincerity: Doing what is right with transparent motives.

Derivation: In ancient Rome, potters who used inferior clay tried to imitate the appearance of high quality pottery. To hide the flaws, these potters would fill any pock marks or cracks with wax and paint the pots. The poor workmanship would remain hidden until the vessels were placed near a heat source, causing the wax to melt. As a result, merchants selling high quality pottery began labeling their wares *sine cere*, Latin for "without wax"

Weekly Verse: 1 Peter 1:22: “Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.”

Bible Story: Mary anoints Jesus in John 12:1-8.

Quote: “Sincerity allows the very least person to be of more value than the most talented hypocrite.” (Spurgeon)

Application: Transparent motives. Sometimes the most difficult things to discover and acknowledge – even about yourself – are motives. Why do we do the things we do, or say the things we say? Discovering our motivation involves asking ourselves some potentially hard questions. Do I have others’ best interest at heart or am I being selfish? Do I understand my own feelings about the subject? Why is it important to be true, not only to others, but also myself?

What is right? How can we decide what is right in any particular situation? First we have to figure out possible options. After we know which paths are available to us, we have to be honest about our motivations. We choose the option that most closely matches our inner core values. By being intentional in our approach we are more likely to make the right choice.

Doing. The saying “Actions speak louder than words” is very true. Only by following through with our right choice – made with transparent motives – and actually doing something can we truly be sincere.

Discussion Questions:

Is there a difference between speaking bluntly and speaking sincerely?

What would you say is the difference between hypocrisy and sincerity?