

Analyzing the importance of integrity and honesty in our  
society as moral values

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Every day people are called upon to take different decisions in their family, their work, their relationship with others. The way someone will act differs from someone else's based on the different values they cultivate in their lives. What they prioritize and what they don't. In this sense, values play a major role in our society and its functioning. This brings us to talk about moral values that have evolved over time. According to a general observation these moral values tend to lose their importance in the contemporary society, less importance is given to them. Among the six values presented by Confucius in Chinese philosophy, the "xin" one has held our attention. In which it is a question of integrity, honesty, and loyalty. In today's society, how important is it that these values are cultivated? To what extent should we inculcate the practice of these values in this new generation? How could practicing these values help make our society better? Here are multiple questions which are worth exploring in more depth. These values must be integrated more importantly in our society to help us to better consider others, to develop respect towards ourselves while respecting others.

Confucius was one of China's greatest philosophers, he lived from 551-479 BC. As a philosopher, he found that one of China's biggest problems is that people lack virtue and morality. So from his teachings as a teacher, there are six key virtues that he promoted. In the article titled "What would Confucius do?" it is mentioned that "The six Confucian virtues are: benevolence (ren), righteousness (yi), virtuous property (li), wisdom (zhi), trustworthiness (xin), and filial piety (xiao). A little further in that article, it is said that: "Trustworthiness indicates loyalty to moral principles, to ritual and social rules of propriety." The same remark that led Confucius to come up with these values is the same that prompts us to demonstrate how important it is that these values be cultivated in our society. Being someone of integrity comes

down first and foremost to respect the rules, even in situations where it seems that it is not necessary or that it is difficult to stick to them. That no one will see the gap, that it will not get anyone in trouble. For example, if someone works in a company with different standards. This person is called upon to adhere to these standards regardless of whether it is a member of his family or his friend. If there is a charge paid to obtain a service. Since the owner of the company have put his trust on you, your duty as the employee is to make sure that this charge is paid by everyone who employs the services of the company.

The second step towards integrity and honesty is to first cultivate a sense of self-respect. A person with integrity must first be upstanding for himself because he thinks that he must be so. In being someone with integrity in their work, honest in their relationships with others, and loyal there is a feeling of priceless satisfaction that this will allow us to experience. Getting a good grade on a cheating exam and getting a good grade on an exam that you took the time to prepare are two completely different situations. By being honest during an exam and taking it based on your knowledge, receiving the results of your efforts, you will feel more proud. This is one of the reasons why during my whole cycle of studies at no time did I allow myself to cheat on an exam. I would have preferred to spend sleepless nights preparing for my exams, to give the best of myself in it. I remember once, when I was in 6th grade, on one of the term exams, all my classmates cheated and the teacher found out. Because of the values that I cultivate and that I believe that it is better to obtain the results of its effort, I did not allow myself to be influenced by the path of ease borrowed by my peers. At the time of the bulletins, I was the second to obtain the highest grade in the class. But the teacher had told us that I was actually the first in the class and all the honor went to me. By this, I have attracted the respect of my teacher as well as the respect of my classmates

Practicing honesty and integrity can help us become a better version of ourselves. Christopher D. Connor mentioned in his article "Honesty- How it benefits you and others" that "Honesty engenders confidence, faith, empowers our will power and represents us in the best way for others to see and witness our example." By being honest with yourself and with others you will gain the trust and consideration of others. We will be able to evaluate ourselves without needing the opinion of others and also to improve on the points that we might feel weak. For example, if we are in a romantic relationship, and we already know our weaknesses as well as our strengths, that we are honest with ourselves when we have done something wrong, we will be able to bear the modifications necessary for this. We will not always tend to always blame our partner when something is wrong, but to take our part of responsibility and this can only help make the situation better. It is of importance that people be honest and with integrity because these values can only lead us to success in different aspects of our life.

Generally speaking, we as humans are tempted to take the easy way out, to cheat from time to time if that can escape a bad situation, to slip in a lie to gain an advantage. So many sacrifices are required of us to stand firm in the practice of such values. Sometimes giving the truth can cause us some harm. There are advantages that we will miss because we want to not lie, not to cheat, and not to betray the trust of others. Seeing everyone following a trend and deciding to do differently can be quite challenging. In the case of my classmates on several occasions I have said to myself, they will surely get a better grade than me, even though they have not even studied, it could lead me to give up my beliefs, to be honest, and to do the same as them. But if I had done this I would have felt ashamed, unworthy of the grade I would have obtained. It is not an easy task to be inclusive and honest, but the positive repercussions of these values on our lives far outweigh the difficulties one might encounter in applying them.

From antiquity to the present day, moral values have existed to give us a line, a way forward, to help us make decisions. Our values set us apart from others and make us unique as a person. In today's society, more and less importance is given to these values. It is the result that matters, the path taken does not matter. Attention is paid to materialistic things that little importance is given to people, their feeling, as well as their emotions. To revalue these moral values in this society is a necessity for everyone. Because they are the foundation of our society. A society is nothing without its values, they are what identifies it. And their practice can only help us to become a better person, a better people, a better world.

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