

SINCERITY, A NECESSARY INGREDIENT IN RELATIONSHIP

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To be sincere is to be real. It is not to pretend. Sincerity is the act of being real without pretence and deceit. Many of our relationships are built on falsehood, pretence, half-truth, and lack of admittance of our own errors.

It is insincerity that makes people not to acknowledge their own faults; rather, they look for whom to blame for their failures, mistakes, shortcomings and outright stubbornness. Sincerity demands that one admits his fault and deal with personal weaknesses in order to overcome.

Insincerity has ruined a lot of relationships. It has compounded problems that would have easily been overcome. Insincerity has made many to live sad and depressed lives. It has made people, especially couples not to know the actual cause of their problems. It has made people to move in circles rather than hitting the target. It is a shame to find Christians lying about their lives to the one they claim they love so much that they will want to share their lives with them until death. Deception is wickedness. It pays to be open. If your relationship is going to work out well, then you have no choice than to be truthful and sincere with yourself and your partner.

Rom 12:9

9 Love must be sincere.

NIV

The scripture acknowledges that there is insincere love. It is not expected that true Christians be insincere in their love for one another. It therefore becomes necessary that you check out anyone seeking a relationship with you to be sure that all the information given by him or her is correct.

- To be committed to the one that is deceiving you is suicide.
- Don't be so intoxicated by love that you close your eyes and ears to the promptings in your spirit that the one you are developing affection for is deceiving you. If you do, that love will turn to hate later. Deception is of the devil.

Sincerity is all about being truthful to yourself and others. Many are not sincere to themselves talk less of being sincere to others. Many never want to admit their faults; rather, they prefer to shift the blame to another. This is the reason why there are many conflicts in homes – no one wants to accept the blame and the responsibility for all that has happened or is happening in the relationship.

- Admittance of one's mistake and failure is a sign of maturity. It is not a sign of weakness.
- Until you begin to see the ability to own up to your faults and failures as a plus and not a minus, you will continue to be insincere.

- Until you learn to call a spade a spade, and look at yourself before you look at your partner, you will continue to see frustration in your relationship.

Covering your weakness is planting a time bomb that will eventually explode with time. Sincerity demands that you give time to dealing with your weakness since it hurts and discomforts your partner.

- Your marriage will always be threatened by any hurtful weakness that is permitted and not dealt with.

There is a level of tolerance for everyman since all are not perfect yet in conduct. Dealing with your weakness becomes very important. That your partner is able to tolerate you now does not give you the freedom to continue without dealing with the weakness. One day you will discover your partner will cry out when the cup of tolerance is full and he or she has no more patience. Don't take advantage of your partner's softness and patience to continue in your faults unabated.

Many relationships have been broken because a lie told was discovered. A young man that I know many years ago broke up with the girl he wanted to marry because he discovered that the girl had lied about her past. He told the girl he had a son in a previous relationship, and wanted to know from the girl if she had any. The girl said no. Much later, he discovered that the girl had had a child in a previous relationship also. He wanted to know why the girl had to lie about it. Another occasion, he discovered the girl lied again about her life in another area. The young man concluded that it is dangerous to marry someone whom he cannot trust the words of her mouth. So, he broke the relationship, which was the wisest thing to do under the circumstance.

Another relationship was broken after a man discovered that the lady he had been courting for about eight years had concealed the fact that she had a child before from him until he stumbled into a conversation between his sweet heart and her daughter. He didn't break the relationship because he didn't want to marry someone who had had a child, but because she concealed it from him for eight years though he had asked her about such things. His conclusion was that the lady could kill him if she had the chance.

Be sincere in all that you do. It does not pay to conceal a matter. The day the matter is revealed, which will eventually happen, that which you have been trying to avoid will still happen. Tell the truth. Be sincere. If the person loves you, he or she will still relate with you no matter your past or handicap.

Eph 4:25

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

NIV

Matt 10:26

26 "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

NIV

Be very careful then how you live your life. Do not present yourself as someone that cannot be trusted. Marriage is all about love and trust.

- If you cannot be trusted, you cannot be married.

Do not blame another for your own lifestyle. Rather, deal with insincerity in your life.

BENEFITS OF SINCERITY

1. It helps to identify the real problems of life and deal with them.
2. It helps one to identify, face and deal with one's weaknesses.
3. Sincerity enhances trust and fellowship.
4. Sincerity makes a relationship to be built on truth and frankness.
5. It eliminates faultfinding and pointing of the finger or shifting of blame
6. Sincerity makes relationship sweet and worthwhile.
7. Sincerity destroys hypocrisy.
8. It makes one to call a spade a spade.
9. Sincerity enables one to build his or her relationship on the word of God. The application of the principles of the word of God makes one a better person – an always improving person.

CONCLUSION

The need to be sincere cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, go to work on yourself now. Practice sincerity. Build a reputation as a truthful, reliable and open-minded person. Make yourself trustworthy. This calls for hard work on your part. Do not be afraid of your partner taken advantage of your openness and sincerity. Do not blame anybody for your troubles if you refuse to change.

Relationship is all about trust and frankness. No body wants to be deceived or cheated on. All love a truthful and open-minded person, including you. If you love a sincere person, be sincere yourself.