

Week 36 - Integrity

Day 2

Deep Foundation

I once took my pre-teenage children to show them the house in which I had been born and raised. After a time of walking in a seemingly endless pasture with no evidence of a dwelling ever having existed, my oldest brother explained, "Our house was a pier and beam house. There was no foundation." I always remembered that experience.

Years later, I was in a large city looking out a hotel room at a construction site. There was nothing built on the surface, but the hole was unbelievably deep. I walked down to the site and asked, "Why such a deep hole?" I still remember his reply, "The depth of the foundation determines the height of the structure. These two experiences make it clear the foundation determines two things:

1. Your legacy, essentially if you are to be remembered.
2. How high you will go and how long you will remain at the top.

When the storm and high winds come, and come they will, whether the structure remains in position is based on the depth of the foundation. John Wooden said it best for athletes, "Talent can get you to the top, only character can keep you at the top."

Foundation is the depth of the qualities that we are developing. What is your depth?

What was your depth in the beginning?

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Day 3

We Really Didn't Win!

The statement, "Athletics develop character," has been proven false in a study done by Dr. Sharon Stoll. She proved it using ideas such as, "if the referee doesn't call it, then it's not a foul." These ideas lead players to believe they can commit illegal acts and it is okay as long as they don't get caught.

Let me tell you of an example I had when I was an athletic director.

Two baseball players came to me very distraught about a play they had used to win a game. Not getting into the details, when they questioned the coach, he said it was the umpire's fault for not calling what they had done. Their question was what should they do?

My response was for them to go to Walmart and buy a shirt for the coach to celebrate the victory. When he expresses gratitude, tell him you stole it but did not get caught so it is okay. When he starts chastising you, tell him you learned it from him.

The boys did it. The coach called the opponent and forfeited the game which made a lot of parents angry.

You see, athletics does not teach character (integrity). Coaches do and to do it effectively, they must have a plan. Coaches don't coach sports; they use the players' love of sports to teach integrity.

Follow this logic: If athletics taught integrity, the individuals who played the most elite sports (professional athletes), would exhibit the highest integrity. What do you think about this statement?

Why is it important for teachers, coaches and employers to have integrity?

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Day 4

I guarantee John Hannah will...

Steve Sloan tells the story of recruiting John Hannah when Steve was an assistant coach for Bear Bryant at the University of Alabama. John Hannah and his father gave a verbal commitment that John would attend Alabama and play football. When Coach Sloan presented the letter of intent on signing date to John and his dad, his dad refused to sign as well as John. The dad explained that he had given his word and that should be good enough. Coach Sloan said he dreaded telling Coach Bryant what had happened when he returned without the letter signed. Upon hearing the story, Coach Bryant said, "I am not sure who will show up in August, but I guarantee you John Hannah will be here." John Hannah did show up and played for Alabama and later in the National Football League and played well enough to be enshrined in both the Alabama Football and National Football League Hall of Fame.

What was the integrity of Mr. Hannah?

What did Bear Bryant understand?

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Day 5

Evaluate Your Week

We've been focused on "Integrity" this week, how did you do? For every goal not met, explain what happened and what you can do differently next week to have success.

If you completed goals, what did you learn?

Write down in complete sentences, something that you learned about "Integrity" this week.

Of the three stories, "Deep Foundation," "We Really Didn't Win," "John Hannah", which had the greatest impact on you? Why?

Demonstration:

For each day of the week, give yourself either "+" if you demonstrated this quality or "-" if you did not.

M _____ T _____ W _____ Th _____ F _____ Sa _____ Su _____