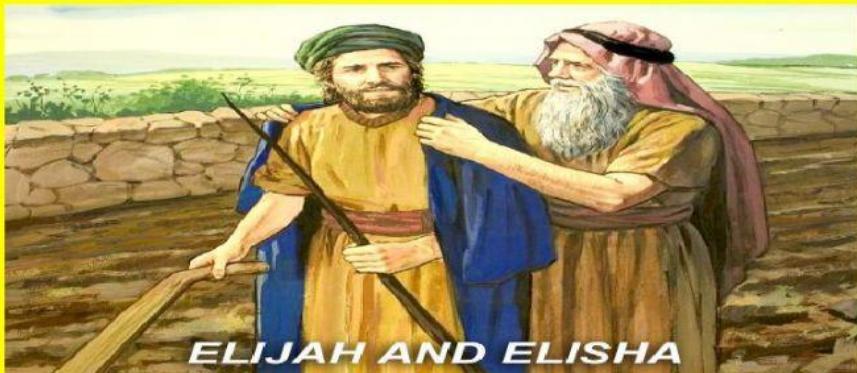


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Religious Studies-NOTES

Growing with Values: Loyalty, Humility, Integrity and Excellence



Loyalty is faithfulness or devotion to a person or cause. Loyalty is an important virtue especially with regards to relationships. Friends and family members should be loyal to each other. This fosters trust and dependability. In the business world, companies depend on customers who are loyal.

Elisha, Daniel and his friends are biblical characters who demonstrated loyalty. Elisha remained loyal to Elijah, until Elijah was taken up into heaven in a chariot. When Daniel and his friends were taken as captives into Babylon, they refused to conform to the Babylonian way of life. They maintained a healthy lifestyle and remained loyal to God.

Being loyal often creates its own rewards, with increases in blessings, security, and respect from others. Friendships become stronger when individuals are loyal. Organizations become stronger when members are loyal. Businesses usually reward customers who are loyal. Clubs, sports teams and other organizations usually honor loyal members or workers.

We can show loyalty to God by worshipping Him, reading His Word, treating others with respect and praying every day. We can show loyalty by being faithful to friends and neighbors. We can show loyalty to our school, clubs and sports teams by being committed and obeying rules.

Humility is an important virtue or characteristic. The Bible tells us that many benefits are awarded to the humble. God raises the humble (Job 5:11). God gives grace to the humble (James 4:10). God gives the humble joy (Isaiah 29:19). God forgives and heals the humble (II Chronicles 7:14). The humble shall inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5). Humility keeps us near to God and reminds us that He is in control.

Humble means not being proud or haughty; arrogant nor assertive; not pretentious. A humble person is unassuming but not weak. A humble person is gracious and grateful. He/she gives glory to God and appreciates the help of others.

Jesus was a perfect example of a humble person. He sought no high position and assumed no titles. He did not strive for worldly greatness, and was content even in the lowest position. Jesus did not contend for His rights. He weeded all vanity from His life. Jesus mingled with the lowly. His manners were gentle and unassuming. He remained true to His humility.

Individuals can display humility in the following ways:

- Giving praise and honor to God
- Being patient with others
- Working with others
- Acknowledging their accomplishments without bragging
- Giving others credit.

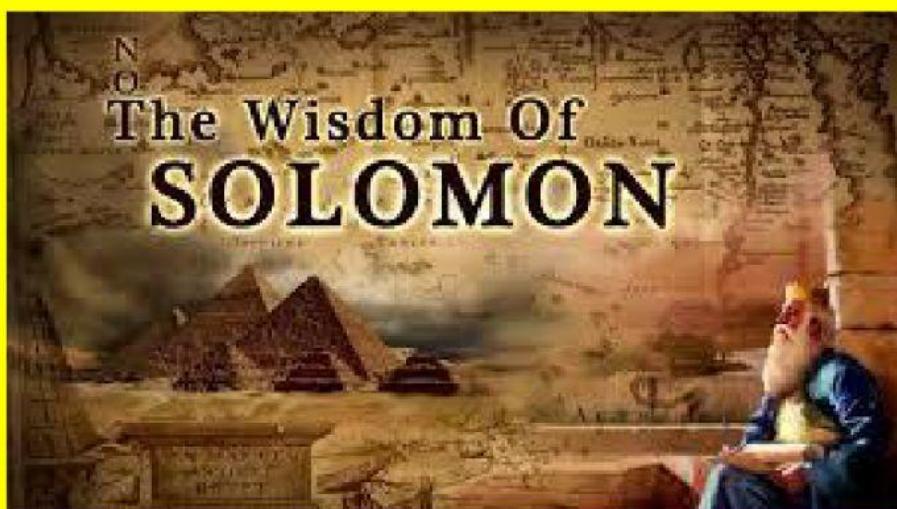
Growing with Values: Integrity and Excellence

Integrity means firm adherence to a code of moral values; the quality or state of being complete or undivided; an unimpaired condition. Synonyms: character, decency, goodness, honesty, righteous and virtuous.

The virtue of integrity was displayed by biblical characters **Joseph** and **Job**. Joseph demonstrated integrity by being faithful to God and his master (Genesis 39). Job was honest and upright in all his deeds (Job 1). Both characters were rewarded for their integrity.

We can display integrity in our lives in the following ways:

- Be truthful and honest
- Be reliable at all times
- Display fairness
- Keep your word
- Do your best even when no one is aware
- Adhere to rules



The word excellence means high quality; an excellent virtue. Excellence is an important virtue because it motivates individuals to go beyond a limit or standard. The quest for excellence drives individuals to perform at their best and achieve greatness.

Two biblical characters who exhibited the spirit of excellence are **Daniel and King Solomon**. In Daniel Chapter 6 verse 3 we discover that Daniel performed better than his supervisors because his work was outstanding. King Solomon was a king of excellence. His wisdom surpassed all and his palace was magnificent.

Students can demonstrate excellence in the following ways: • Attend school every day and be prompt • Do your best on all your assignments • Treat others with respect • Practice until your skills improve • Be neat in appearance. Excellence must be practiced daily.