

# LifeCode

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## DISCOVERING THE POWER OF A PRINCIPLE-CENTERED LIFE

According to the Merriam-Webster report, the top ten word searches in 2005 on their internet site included words such as *tsunami*, *levee*, *refugee*, *filibuster* and *pandemic*. The number ten word was *inept*, but the number one word was *integrity*.

**Integrity:** firm adherence to a code, incorruptibility.

*He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.*

—PROVERBS 10:9

Make the connection between ethics and effectiveness in life.

### Explore the Value of a Principle-Focused Book

**Proverb:** A short sentence based on long experience.

*The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: to know **wisdom** and **instruction**, to perceive the words of **understanding**, to receive the instruction of wisdom, **justice**, **judgment**, and **equity**; to give **prudence** to the simple, to the young man knowledge and **discretion**—a wise man will hear and increase **learning**, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, to understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of **knowledge**, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.* —PROVERBS 1:1-7

**Key words:** Wisdom, instruction, understanding, justice, judgment, equity, prudence, discretion, learning, knowledge.

## Examine the Importance of a Principle-Centered Life

“Why do otherwise decent people deviate from what they know to be right? Naturally, some non-compliance stems from a deliberate wrongdoing by particular individuals. But there are some common rationalizations to which we can all unconsciously fall prey. Once we recognize the dubious worth of these kinds of excuses, we can effectively influence the corporate moral climate... Codes of conduct function well when employees are confronted with straightforward issues or legal matters, such as whether a creditor may call late at night or whether individuals may use corporate property for personal use. They are less successful, though, when the issues are vague, novel, or difficult. In these cases, the FSG requires that employees be acquainted with the principles behind the rules, so they are able to discern what to do. Ethics training, then, should deal with both the corporate code of conduct and individual moral choices.” —RANDY RICHARDS

Four Common Excuses for Ethical Slips:

- “I was told to do it.”
- “Everybody is doing it.”
- “My actions won’t make a difference.”
- “It’s not my problem.”

### Establish a Standard for Principle-Based Judgments

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

—PROVERBS 1:7

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” —JOHN WESLEY



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