

# LifeCode

DAVID H. MCKINLEY

## A CODE OF HONESTY

*Good people are guided by their honesty; treacherous people are destroyed by their dishonesty.* —PROVERBS 11:3 NLT

*The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; the one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.* —PROVERBS 13:3

### What Motivates Dishonesty?

#### 1. Greed

*Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.* —PROVERBS 20:17 NKJV

#### 2. Pride

*It is better to be poor and honest than to be a fool and dishonest.* —PROVERBS 19:1 NLT

#### 3. Fear

*An honest witness tells the truth; a false witness tells lies.* —PROVERBS 12:17 NLT

#### 4. Convenience

*Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.* —PROVERBS 27:6 NKJV

#### 5. Deceit

*He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.* —PROVERBS 17:20 NKJV

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?* —JEREMIAH 17:9 NKJV

### How Can We Measure Our Honesty?

1. Are you prone to **exaggeration**?
2. Do you **eliminate** important details on purpose?
3. Have you created false **expectations**?
4. Do you **evade** the truth in uncomfortable situations?
5. How do you **evaluate** your words?

*Honesty lives confident and carefree, but Shifty is sure to be exposed.* —PROVERBS 10:9 THE MESSAGE

### How Do We Make Honesty More Than a Motto?

The following points are by Robert Jeffress, *The Solomon Secrets*

#### 1. Refrain from unnecessary words.

“Silence is wisdom, where speaking is folly, and always safe. Some are so foolish to interrupt and anticipate those that speak, instead of hearing and thinking before they answer, which is uncivil as well as silly. If thou thinkest twice, before thou speakest once, thou wilt speak twice the better for it.”

—WILLIAM PENN

#### 2. Refuse to criticize [or provide commentary] about others until you have talked with him or her personally.

#### 3. Remove all lies, exaggerations and distortions from your speech.

Before you speak, ask yourself these three questions: Is it true? Is it needful? Is it kind?

#### 4. Remind yourself of the need to purify your heart.

*He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself...* —PROVERBS 26:24 NKJV

#### 5. Remember your accountability to God for your words.

*For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.*

—MATTHEW 12:34b-36 NKJV

*An honest life shows respect for God; a degenerate life is a slap in his face.* —PROVERBS 14:2 THE MESSAGE



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