While recently attending a Christian leadership conference, I was reminded over and over again of the single most important trait we should look for and require in our leaders, integrity. Without integrity there can be no respect, truth, or trust. The definition of integrity as it relates to us is: A quality or state of being of sound principles; uprightness, honesty, sincerity.

Integrity is not based on what someone says, but on how they live their lives. A persons moral integrity is shown by how they treat their family and others, how they do their job, and especially how the act even when nobody else is watching. Without integrity, what a person says means nothing because they can't be trusted.

Regardless of the political party that you support, we are seeing the results in our cities and towns, in our counties and states, and in our nation, of leadership without moral integrity. We are paying a dear price for it.

With the upcoming election, I would like to encourage everyone to look closely into those running for office. Please don't vote for someone on the basis of what they might do for you or even whether or not they might be a friend. Are they first and foremost a person of integrity? Do they lie or always tell the truth? Do they preach one thing and live their lives another? How do they manage their own business, household, ect? How do they treat people they come in contact with? None of our business you say. These people will be managing our tax dollars, hiring people to run government agencies, and passing laws and regulations that will directly effect our lives and those of our children and grandchildren.

We also need to encourage our media from local to national to truly vet these people running for office and not be afraid to get the truth out there. Our future and our nations future depends on it.

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