

Ethics

Recently, all the employees where I work attended required company sponsored ethics training. During the presentation there were many real-world examples given about companies that had come under investigation and public disgrace just because of unethical actions by a small number of individuals.

Several employees shared their stories about how they had learned their original lessons in ethics and morality. Although the people came from a variety of cultural and educational backgrounds, there was a common thread in all of the stories. Each one spoke of how they had been introduced to morality and ethics by their parents and teachers during those all-critical formative years of their youth. This underscored for me the tremendous importance of the work we do as parents, teachers and youth workers in helping to shape these young lives for their future.

The influence we have on them may seem “old fashioned” to our kids or be rejected at the time, but in their future lives they will be thankful for the character we helped build into their lives by our words and our examples. I recall how many times I heard my own teenage kids complain about how we were “ruining” or “controlling their lives” with our morality and care and yet we persisted because we knew that someday we would be accountable to God for the job we had done as parents. We weren’t perfect but we tried our best to be good models of the ethics we hoped they’d have as they entered adulthood. As our children are now out earning their own living and have begun to start their own families we are beginning to see the fruit of our efforts in their lives.

PR 20:11 Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.

PR 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

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