



INTEGRITY SHOULD NOT BE FOR SALE

Every manager and employee are faced with tough choices in business, but integrity perseveres

Let's touch on a sensitive subject today. Readers of this column know that I'm a strong proponent of character traits in employees. In operating a small business it's absolutely imperative that we have employees who are honest, trustworthy, loyal, and who align themselves with the direction of the company. In other words, we want a workforce that pulls together as a team to make the company the best it can possibly be.

Now for the sensitive part; what if we look at this equation from the side of the employees? What are the expectations of the employees, and what happens when those expectations aren't met? It's not something that happens frequently, but it does happen. I recently became aware of a situation where the owner of a very successful medium-sized company was found to be "treading on thin ice" when it came to ethical business dealings.

ARPI provides business and community coaching throughout the United States. If you have a business question for Jack, email him at jack.newcomb@totalcsi.com. You can also visit the ARPI website, www.advancingruralprosperity.com.

While not necessarily illegal, his actions were certainly not acceptable in normal business practice.

As an employee whose integrity and reputation are vitally important to you, what are your options when faced with this dilemma? It's not an easy choice, but it is one that needs to be made. One's integrity shouldn't be for sale. You either have it or you don't, and there's no middle ground.

Do you confront your boss? Do you resign your position? Or, do you close your eyes to the situation, keep your mouth shut, and continue to draw your paycheck? Tough choices for sure, and only you can make that decision.



Jack Newcomb
Co-Founder

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