



“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”
2 Peter 1:21



CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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When We Meet

Sunday
 Bible Classes – 9:00 am
 Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm
Wednesday
 Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper
 Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
 Kelly Kendall
 Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale

Demonstrating Virtue
 by Alex Hale

Virtue means that you tell the truth even when it hurts.
Proverbs 12:17 (ESV) Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit.

People value the truth (Proverbs 24:26). We should be willing to maintain our integrity even when it may require us to sacrifice temporal things (Proverbs 22:1; Psalm 15:4). Several years ago some information was uncovered about a man that he hoped would not come out in court. He told his preacher, “If I get up there on the witness stand, I will deny it.” He was willing to tell a lie because he felt like the truth would hurt him in the court case. The preacher told him, “My friend, tell the truth, even if it hurts you. Remember, you can always get your money back, but you can’t get your integrity back.”

Remember that you are making a promise:

- When you sign a contract
- When you use a credit card
- When you sign up to do something
- When you make an appointment
- When you say you will teach a class
- When you say you will be there
- When you tell someone something

In order to keep our promises:

- Watch your words
- Make fewer promises
- If you can’t do something, don’t say you can
- If you don’t know how to do something, be honest about it
- Avoid rash statements, vows, and decisions
- Sometimes, simply say no

Virtue means that you confront a problem even when it would be easier to walk away.
Proverbs 27:5-6 (ESV) Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

Being a man or woman of virtue means that you do not walk away from problems, but rather when you see a problem you tackle it accordingly. When asked about his secret of leadership, the late General Norman Schwartzkopf replied, “I never walk past a problem. I never see something wrong and forget about it. I always stop and confront it right there.” This applies to any part of life, including marriage, parent/child problems, work, family, and church. Problems do not get better when you ignore them. You may think you love someone too much to say anything. In reality, if you really love them, you will speak the truth in love to them, even though it might be easier to say nothing.

About twelve miles west of Florence, Alabama sits an old, mostly burned-down mansion which was built by one of Andrew Jackson’s generals. Behind the remaining columns, there is a cemetery. It is the cemetery of this general’s family. Most of the graves are between 150 and 200 years old. One of this general’s sons served during the Civil War and died about the same time the war was ending. On his tombstone, underneath his name is the phrase “a man of unquestioned integrity.” What an idea – a man whose integrity was so strong that even after his death, no one could call it into question at all. What about us?