

## Practically applying the character quality of

# justice

vs. Corruption

*"Taking personal responsibility to uphold what is pure, right, and true."*

**By: Steve Becker**

### A person of integrity

What is it going to take for you or me to become known as a person of integrity? What character qualities do we need to develop in our life to become known as a person of integrity? Certainly Truthfulness, Responsibility and Virtue are very important, but what about Justice? Justice is taking personal responsibility to uphold what is pure, right and true. Justice is the action item of truthfulness, responsibility and virtue combined. It is far more than the legal aspects that come to mind; it is the moral responsibility to let your voice be heard when you discover wrongdoing in your community or in your workplace. When you learn of an injustice, seek justice.

### Justice with a friend

How do you pursue justice with a friend without jeopardizing the relationship? When confronting a friend or co-worker whom you suspect of breaking the rules, it is critical that you demonstrate a spirit of humility and forgiveness. Humility is recognizing that you are coming as a peer and a concerned friend, not as an authority bringing a verdict. If the wrongdoing is against you and only you, then you have the moral obligation to forgive that failure when the offender apologizes. If, however, the wrong is an offense against others, you should help your friend do the right thing. True friendship does not overlook injustice.

### Leadership Perspective in Balance

**CHARACTER FIRST!**<sup>®</sup> uses the concept of Leadership Perspectives to describe different personality types. These seven are Visionary, Teacher, Server, Organizer, Mediator, Idealist and Provider. Each perspective views situations differently and has its own strengths and weaknesses. Seeking counsel from someone of a different

Leadership Perspectives on our website. Visit our website at [www.charactercouncil.org](http://www.charactercouncil.org) and click on **Character in Leadership** under the **Who We Are** section.

### Balancing Justice

People often need love most when they deserve it the least! It is one thing to be sympathetic. It is a deeper response to be empathetic and deeper yet to be compassionate. Relationships thrive not because the guilty are punished but because the innocent extend mercy and grace. Grace means that people don't get what they deserve. It is one thing to experience compassion or to even give it intellectually. It is quite another thing to receive compassion when someone knows that all they are entitled to is justice. People lose hope when they sense no room for occasional mistakes and setbacks. So seek justice, but give people room to grow.

*Read more about Justice and other character qualities at our website by clicking on **Quality of the Month***

### Commitment to Justice

- I will respect the authority of the law.
- I will speak out for what is pure, right, and true.
  - I will keep my conscience clean.
  - I will remain open to reason.
  - I will not prejudice others.

perspective will help balance your pursuit of justice. For example, my leadership perspective is Idealist, and my strong focus is on truth and the pursuit of justice. I may, however, fail to safeguard relationships in the process of dealing with a situation. Someone with the leadership perspective of Mediator would naturally encourage me to consider aspects of mercy and grace. You can learn more about

### How JUST are you?

- Do you have a meek spirit to guide you in justice and judgment?
- Do you set high standards for yourself in pure thoughts and right actions?
- Do you understand the difference between justice and fairness?
- Do you silently approve the wrong behavior of a friend?
- Do you seek wise counsel when dealing with tough personnel issues?