Virtue-Honesty

1. **Integrity**: adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty.
   “Integrity is doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching.”—Anon

2. **Truth**: the true or actual state of a matter
   “No matter how fast a lie is, the truth will catch up with her.”—Dutch Proverb
   “A lie has speed, but truth has endurance.”---Edgar J. Mohn

3. **Honor**: honesty, fairness, or integrity in one's beliefs and actions: a man of honor.

4. **Honesty**: being truthful and free from deceit and fraud.

   **The Law**

1. **If one makes a vow or promise he must honor it.**
   When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
   Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.” (Proverbs 6:16-19)

2. **“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”** (Ex. 20:16)
   • “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
     “A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
     “An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that are swift in running to mischief,
     “A false witness that speaketh lies and he that soweth discord among brethren” (Proverbs 6:16)

3. **Thou Shalt Not Steal.** (Exodus 20:15)

4. **We should not lie to others. A lie is any communication given to another with the intent to deceive and is not limited to words.** (Howard W. Hunter)

5. **We should not cheat.**
   • We cheat when we give less than we owe, or when we get something we do not deserve. Some employees cheat their employers by not working their full time; yet they accept full pay. Some employers are not fair to their employees; they pay them less than they should. Satan says, “Take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor” (2 Nephi 28:8). Taking unfair advantage is a form of dishonesty. Providing inferior service or merchandise is cheating. Gospel Principles Manual

6. **We must have integrity**: "Integrity includes but goes beyond honesty. Honesty is telling the truth - conforming our words to reality. Integrity is conforming reality to our words - keeping promises and fulfilling expectations."- Stephen Covey
7. Truth is things as they are, as they were and as they really will be.

- Behold, my brethren, he that prophesieth, let him prophesy to the understanding of men; for the Spirit speaketh the truth and lieth not. Wherefore, it speaketh of things as they really are, and of things as they really will be; wherefore, these things are manifested unto us plainly, for the salvation of our souls. But behold, we are not witnesses alone in these things; for God also spake them unto prophets of old. (Jacob 4:13.)

"And truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come." (D&C 93:24.)

Blessings

1. Living in accordance with truth sets us free.

- Truth sets us free because we learn of things as they really are and are thus capable of acting in accordance with reality and remain free from iniquity and ignorance.
- And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32).

2. Honesty delivers from death.

- Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death. (Proverbs 11:4)

Costs

1. When we are dishonest conscience weakens, character withers and integrity dies.

- “In our time, those found in dishonesty do not die as did Ananias and Sapphira, but something within them dies. Conscience chokes, character withers, self-respect vanishes, integrity dies.”---Gordon B. Hinckley

2. Wo unto the liar, for he shall be thrust down to hell" (2 Nephi 9:34).

- "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house. He that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight" (Psalms 101:7).
- "Lying lips are abomination unto the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight" (Proverbs 12:22).

Beliefs

1. The truth will always become known in time.

- The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment. (Proverbs 12:19)
- “Slander cannot destroy an honest man - when the flood recedes the rock is there”—Chinese Proverb

2. Adultery is personal betrayal of the worst kind which brings about heartbreak and sorrow.

- Was there ever adultery without dishonesty? In the vernacular, the evil is described as “cheating.” And cheating it is, for it robs virtue, it robs loyalty, it robs sacred promises, it robs self-respect, it robs truth. It involves deception. It is personal dishonesty of the worst kind, for it becomes a betrayal of the most sacred of human relationships and a denial of covenants and promises entered into before God and man. It is the sordid violation of a trust. It is a selfish casting aside of the law of God, and, like other forms of dishonesty, its fruits are sorrow, bitterness, heartbroken companions, and betrayed children.

Good persons, well-intentioned persons of great capacity, trade character for trinkets that then turn to wax before their eyes. Their dreams become only haunting nightmares. ---Gordon B. Hinckley
3. To know the truth of God we must live his commandments. Slackening of these standards brings doubt.
   - Jesus said we can know of the divinity of his doctrines by keeping his commandments and by doing the will of the Father. Therefore, a slackening of behavioural standards brings more doubt. (John 7:16-17.)

4. Truth is the only meaningful foundation upon which we can make wise decisions.
   - Since truth is the only meaningful foundation upon which we can make wise decisions, how then can one establish what is really true? Richard G. Scott- Truth the foundation of correct principles

5. The Scientific Method is one way in which we can learn about the works of God.
   - There are two ways to find truth—both useful, provided we follow the laws upon which they are predicated. The first is the scientific method. It can require analysis of data to confirm a theory or, alternatively, establish a valid principle through experimentation. The scientific method is a valuable way of seeking truth. However, it has two limitations. First, we never can be sure we have identified absolute truth, though we often draw nearer and nearer to it. Second, sometimes, no matter how earnestly we apply the method, we can get the wrong answer. Richard G. Scott- Truth the foundation of correct principles

6. We can learn absolute truth through revelation from the source of all truth.
   - The best way of finding truth is simply to go to the origin of all truth and ask or respond to inspiration. For success, two ingredients are essential: first, unwavering faith in the source of all truth; second, a willingness to keep God’s commandments to keep open spiritual communication with Him. Richard G. Scott- Truth the foundation of correct principles

7. Honesty Is a Principle of Salvation
   - The 13th article of faith says, “We believe in being honest.”
   - God is honest and just in all things (see Alma 7:20). We too must be honest in all things to become like Him. The brother of Jared testified, “Yea, Lord, I know that thou … art a God of truth, and canst not lie” (Ether 3:12).
   - In contrast, the devil is a liar. In fact, he is the father of lies (see 2 Nephi 9:9). “Those who choose to cheat and lie and deceive and misrepresent become his slaves” (Mark E. Petersen, in Conference Report, Oct. 1971, 65; or Ensign, Dec. 1971, 73). (Gospel Principles Manual)

8. We should be genuine and not pretend we have no faults or put a “Potemkin Village” on Display.
   - “When taken to extremes, this desire to impress can shift from useful to deceitful…We come to church not to hide our problems but to heal them…”
   - “The term “Potemkin village” has entered the world’s vocabulary. It now refers to any attempt to make others believe we are better than we really are.” (Dieter F. Uchtdorf-On Being Genuine)

Quotes
1. An honorable man or woman is one who is truthful; free from deceit; above cheating, lying, stealing, or any form of deception. An honorable man or woman is one who learns early that one cannot do wrong and feel right. A man’s character is judged on how he keeps his word and his agreements. -----Ezra Taft Benson

2. All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils; My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit. God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live. [Job 27:3-6]
Antonyms

1. **Ignoble**: of low character, aims, etc.

2. **Despicable**: deserving to be despised.

3. **Infamous**: having an extremely bad reputation.

4. **Cunning**: skill employed in a shrewd or sly manner, as in deceiving. Marked by or given to artful subtlety and deceptiveness.

5. **Guile**: insidious cunning in attaining a goal. The use of tricks to deceive someone.

6. **Trickery**: the use or practice of tricks or stratagems to deceive.

7. **Deception**: to mislead by a false appearance or statement.

8. **Fraud**: deceit, trickery, sharp practice, or breach of confidence, perpetrated for profit or to gain some unfair or dishonest advantage.

**Measuring Honesty and Integrity**

1. Matching our words to reality measures honesty.

2. Matching our actions to our words measures integrity.

3. Not stealing or cheating.