



September 2008

Monthly Character e-Bulletin

Building Communities of Character

## Truthfulness (vs. deception)

Presidential elections are upon us and we are called to wade through a plethora of information and reporting to get to the truth. Which candidate says what they mean *and* means what they say? It isn't simple any more. Everyone has an opinion and an agenda. Facts get twisted and exaggerated by the media, and fingers tend to point in opposite directions at any whiff of wrong doing.

In order for us to discern truthfulness – what is factual, genuine, real, or accurate—we first have to learn how to recognize it. We can do this by putting it into practice in our own lives. When we learn to “walk the walk” and not just “talk the walk”, we are able to build a solid foundation of honesty, reliability, and honor.

Building this foundation of integrity takes courage, because being honest isn't always easy. This can be especially true if we are

being challenged, feel threatened, or are fearful of retaliation.

Living at this level of integrity also means that we have to be able to admit our mistakes, especially when we *think* we are right.

Yet, when truthfulness permeates our lives, we tend to have the courage to pursue our ideals and dreams, and to stand up for what we believe is right.

One person who took such a stand in a US Senatorial campaign, was Abraham Lincoln. He said, if it has been decreed that I should go down because of this speech, then let me go down linked to the truth—let me die in the advocacy of what is just and right."

This stand he took was not in the name of policy, politics, or parties, but was based on what he strongly felt to be right. This lifestyle of doing what he believed to

be the right thing, even if it cost him, is what earned him the reputation as *Honest Abe* and got him elected as our 16th President of the United States of America. ✦



Face the Facts

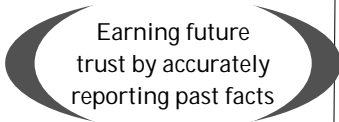
Tell the Truth

Do not Exaggerate

Admit when I am Wrong

Do not Cheat or Steal

Encourage Truthfulness



*The mission of Prattville-Autauga Character Coalition is to strengthen our communities by promoting excellence in character for each citizen.*

## Visions of Character

“Character is what you have left when you've lost everything you can lose.”  
- Evan Esar

For more information visit the Prattville Autauga Character Coalition website at [www.pacharacter.org](http://www.pacharacter.org)