

A CALL TO LEADERSHIP

BY ED MORLER, M.B.A., PH.D.

Excerpt from *THE LEADERSHIP INTEGRITY CHALLENGE*

The history of the human race contains a continuing pattern of self-centered, hurtful and destructive behavior. We have decimated environments, annihilated species, and destroyed cultures—due to the influence of immature people who lack integrity. The Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, the Congo, Liberia, Bosnia, Somalia, and Darfur are only some of the more recent and ongoing atrocities. By and large, most of us have been, and are continuing to be, complicit in such failures—choosing to rationalize turning a blind eye where courage and integrity are needed.

Passive acceptance of such tragedies is itself a lack of integrity and contributes to feeling separated, alone, powerless and afraid. The impact of integrity's lack is never isolated and rears its ugly head in many forms; from persisting corporate and governmental fraud to inadequate education and healthcare, to environmental degradation, terrorism and genocide.

The problems and consequences are accelerating at an exponential rate. Existing conditions, personal and global, are a direct reflection of the level of emotional maturity present and, correspondingly, the degree essence values are an actual priority (or not). We can no longer “let the next generation deal with it.” Although our happiness and perhaps very survival demands mature adult judgement and action, we continue to react and behave like insecure self-absorbed adolescents.

Humanity and the planet can no longer tolerate our indifferent irresponsibility!

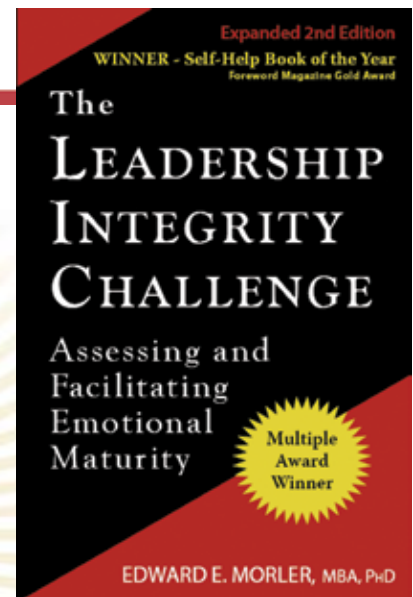


We must grow up! We must wake up and realize that it is only when we start actually living essence values in all contexts of our lives, large and small, that we can hope to break the viscous pattern of individual and collective irresponsibility. When we do so, courage integrates with responsibility, love, and compassion—in other words—integrity. Facilitate the maturity of willing individuals and one helps develop people who make more responsible, empowered choices laying the foundation for an environment of integrity.

Integrity—personal and public—liberates forces for global change. Whenever anyone, prompted by compassion and conscience, faces one fragment of their hypocrisy and takes honest steps of individual transformation, that action communicates to others. It kindles an inspiration for initiatives to bring justice and dignity. This integrity could be the energy for social transformation in the 21st century—a growing momentum of people who become agents of change and reconciliation, forging relationships of trust across the world's divides.

— The Caux Initiatives of Change

Recent advances in understanding human perception, motivation and behavior provide more tools and opportunities than ever to influence the world positively. With these



resources at their fingertips, enlightened, courageous leaders can generate a paradigm shift of enormous significance. How? By accessing such tools and using them to facilitate emotional maturity and integrity within their existing sphere of influence, whatever that may be.

Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. —Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

If even a few people in your immediate surroundings were more secure, happier, more responsible, what would happen? Imagine the possibilities.

Doesn't it behoove us to do whatever we can to facilitate ourselves, our loved ones, and our associates in that direction? Shouldn't we be doing our very best to create an environment that attracts, develops, supports, and requires emotionally mature people of integrity?

Isn't it obvious that integrity and emotional maturity are not only prerequisite to individual and organizational empowerment but that their presence is *vital* to the creation of a saner, more loving world?

For all the sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: It might have been. —John Greenleaf Whittier

For those up to the challenge of playing a truly purposeful game, *creating an emotionally mature environment of integrity is the ultimate leadership challenge—and—the ultimate leadership success.* The means are available. *Are you up for the challenge?*

Never doubt that a single person can change the world. For indeed it is the only thing that ever has. —Margaret Mead



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Morler is president of Morler International, a management training and development firm specializing in integrity-based interpersonal effectiveness. His focus is the custom design and delivery of bottom-line, functional skill enhancement programs that simultaneously integrate the principles and dynamics of integrity, emotional maturity, motivation, and leadership. Examples are negotiation, client relations, and leadership development. Dr. Morler conducts trainings for corporations and government agencies worldwide.



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