

## What is Sincerity?

Sincerity comes from the Latin words "sine cere," meaning without wax. Because Roman clay pots were made of poor materials so that they cracked when fired, the potters often hid the cracks with wax. It was only when they were heated and the wax melted that the crack was discovered.

A sincere person is the same inside and out, whether anyone is watching or not. He does what is right for the right reasons, not to impress someone or because he has to, but because he wants to do what is right.

Being sincere doesn't mean a person can say what he thinks even if it will be hurtful to another. A truly sincere person will stop and think before he speaks, being sure that his reason for speaking is good.

A hypocrite will try to cover up his wrongs and make himself look good. A sincere person is truthful about his faults and works to correct them. He doesn't try to hide them or explain them away, but he takes responsibility for his actions.



## "Sincerity" vs. hypocrisy

**"Eagerly doing what is right with transparent motives"**

### I will:

- ◆ be all that I can be.
- ◆ take responsibility for my own actions.
- ◆ respect other's opinions.
- ◆ always mean what I say.
- ◆ not take advantage of other people.

—permission to use granted by [Character First](#)

### Memory Work

*I will use my talents fully  
To be all that I can be.  
And for all my actions I will take  
Responsibility.*

*I will never take advantage  
Of the people on my way.  
I'll respect others' opinions  
And I'll mean the words I say.*

*Commitments are important  
steps  
to guard us from disaster.  
And just to show we know them  
well,  
let's say them even faster.*

Permission granted by: [Character First](#)

### What does sincerity look like?

1. Saying the same things to your friend's face as you do behind his back.
2. When you say you've cleaned your room, making sure your closets and under your bed are clean, too.
3. Following through on commitments you have made.
4. When you have broken something, admitting it and offering to pay for it, rather than covering it up.
5. Offering to help your teacher because it is right to do so, not to get better grades

## Sincerity in Nature

### The Pearl Necklace



The young man had been passing this jewelry store window for weeks on his way to work. Each day, he would gaze in the window at the beautiful jewelry displayed. There were sparkling diamonds, gold earrings, brilliant emeralds and precious rubies. The whole window glistened.

Today, however, was different. Today he saw the piece his mother must have for her birthday. Entering the store and approaching the store clerk, the clerk exclaimed, "You have a fine eye sir. These are the most radiant pearls I've ever seen!" Examining the pearls, the man realized how brilliant they were, with a luster he had only imagined existed. "How much?" the young man asked.

The answer came with a jolt. The price was much more than he expected the necklace to cost. "Why are they so expensive?" he mused. "Sir, these are genuine pearls. There is nothing fake about them! They are totally genuine to the core." Continuing, the jeweler explained that as an oyster opens its shell, pieces of sand and debris get stuck in the most sensitive parts of the oyster. As a result, the oyster produces a tear-like liquid called "nacre" to cover the irritant, hardening into a shiny covering which eases the pain. Years of this tear build up eventually becomes a valuable pearl. Every genuine pearl is the result of many years of suffering by the pearl oyster.

Pondering the information, the young man asked if there were any cheaper pearls. The jeweler opened another glass case and brought out a necklace made from "cultured" pearls. Indeed, they were less expensive. The clerk went on to explain, "Cultured pearls look real on the outside, but they are fake on the inside. A glass bead is placed in the oyster by the pearl farmer and a thin layer of nacre is allowed to cover the bead. When the covering is thick enough to look like a real pearl, it is removed. However, since the nacre does not go all the way through, the cultured pearls chip and dull easily."

Thinking to himself, the young man pondered his mother's life. She had known suffering and gone through much heartache. She never once took her pain out on others but instead was forgiving, loving and kind. Her life was much like the beautiful pearls-genuine and good, all the way through.

Convinced that his mother deserved the real pearls, he counted out a large sum of money to pay for the genuine necklace. As he left the store, he could hardly wait for his mother's birthday.

When the big day finally arrived, he greeted her with an enthusiastic "Happy birthday, Mom!" and placed the beautifully wrapped box in her hand. Slowly and carefully she opened the package to reveal the brilliant pearls in a velvet-lined box. Placing his arm around his mother, he told her how he felt. "Mom, I have seen you endure through hard times. But through it all, you remained kind to others and have done your very best to take care of me. Your life is a valuable treasure to everyone who knows you. You are a wonderful mother to me and I love you."

Looking into his mother's face, he knew he had chosen the right gift—a genuine pearl necklace for a genuine, loving mother.

Story by Kelly Sorge

Concept by : [Character First](#)