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INTEGRITY IN BUSINESS AND IN MONEY MATTERS

We are familiar with the expression “Man must not live by bread alone.” Indeed, it seems that most of our waking hours are spent on much more than simply providing food for the family table. Some of us are self-employed, others are employers, and still others may be merchants or someone who just provides a service. Most of us though are employees who honestly work hard each day to provide for the necessities of life.

Granted, for all of us the technicalities of our work day may be different, but would you not agree that our view of integrity and honesty in business should be the same? We all have a sense of justice that expects from others we do business with to practice honesty towards us; sometimes referred to as The Golden Rule. We consider it professionally immoral to deal unjustly with clients, customers, employees, or hired workers. To act with deceit or fraudulently with the wages of a worker is unacceptable by all. As an employer we may be entitled to set wages and work conditions, but honest employers do not use dishonesty to make more profit at the expense of those hired.

Some today who deal in business might be tempted to deceive buyers. This applies to merchants, employers, employees, or clients—anyone involved with contracts or agreements. Perhaps we have experienced some in the business world who may hesitate to put things in writing, thinking that later it will be easier to do less than was agreed upon or to make new demands. Others do offer a written contract but include details in fine print in order to distort its meaning to their advantage, even if this unjustly hurts the other party. Whether a merchant or a customer, an

employer or an employee—such practices do not show honesty and integrity.

Do the ideals of professional integrity have a bearing on how we run our business or what we do as an employee? It is something to think about, since today there are countless ways customers and clients get defrauded. For example, some unscrupulous contractors may put less than the normal or legal amount of cement in a mix. Or, in areas that he knows will be hidden, a craftsman may use cheaper materials than what is paid for. Some merchants pass off as brand-new items that are actually used. And you may have heard of other so-called tricks-of-the-trade employed to increase profits. Would you be tempted to try them? Only honest contractors in their business and financial affairs will continue to prosper for they will continue to be known for their good reputation and honest business practices.

UNITED PROFESSIONAL CAULKING & RESTORATION, INC.

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