Maintain Your Values and Integrity

I know a community that introduced a simple exercise called "WWBD" to its police department — that is, "What Would Batman Do?"

Sounds stupid? It isn't.

Have you ever had the experience of trying to maintain your position while treading water at the beach? You think you've succeeded…until you notice that the multicolored beach umbrella, which used to be opposite your position on the shore, is now far upshore. While you were chattering away with a friend or contemplating the blue of the sky above, and thinking that you hadn't moved at all, you had drifted far, far away from your original position.

It happens to all of us in our lives.

Constant exposure to emotionally and morally corrosive individuals and situations can cause us to drift from possessing absolute values and standards of morality. Instead of being absolute, they become relative. This can be disastrous — morally, professionally, personally.

How do you maintain a constant, inviolate value system in the face of an onslaught of rationalization, immorality, temptation and situational moral relativity? Isn't it inevitable that the corrosion will change you?

Make a daily position check from the GPS of absolute standards and values of morality. Synchronizing your thoughts and actions against something fixed and unchanging can play the same role as that multicolored umbrella on the beach: You can use it to correct your position and prevent yourself from drifting way downstream toward moral relativism.

"WWBD" — "What Would Batman Do?" — is an exercise that forces you to compare your instincts and behavior to the gold standard of an idealized, perfect, mythical do-gooder. How would the Batman, free from temptation, laziness, callousness, graft and personal self-interest, behave in this situation? How are you behaving in this situation?

Maybe you've floated downstream. Maybe you paddled vigorously to get there. Maybe it's time to correct your position.

"WWBD?" Silly? Perhaps. Light-hearted? Definitely. Stupid? Definitely not.