

Character

Godly Traits of Great Christians

The “C” Study

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What Is Character?

- **The traits that define or describe a person.**
- **What you are - other than biological factors.**
- **The lifestyle that makes up your reputation.**
- **The code of conduct that rules most actions.**
- **The discipline and defaults for what you do.**

How Is It Measured?

- **Your family does not count – they are biased.**
- **But God's judgment is perfect – and in writing!**
- **And other good men count – they tell the truth.**
- **Also by fruit, friends, results, position, or praise.**
- **We check possible spouses by a character chart.**

How Does It Affect Me?

- **It is important for good jobs or a business.**
- **Friends seek character for pleasure and safety.**
- **Marriage, young person, depends greatly on it.**
- **Any testimony for Jesus or truth depends on it.**
- **Safety, peace, joy, and prosperity depend on it.**

Is It Important?

- **The concept, but not the word, is in the Bible.**
- **A good name is put above wealth (Prov 22:1).**
- **God saved you to be like His Son (Rom 8:29).**
- **Sons of God are to avoid offence (I Cor 10:31-33).**
- **A good one glorifies God and defends the truth.**

It Has Competitors

- The world wants you to worry about your IQ.
- Or how well you do in sports.
- Or how well you do in business.
- Or whether you are attractive or not.
- Or how popular you are with worldlings.

Is It Important?

- **Some may think this subject is not very spiritual.**
- **But character is how we “Occupy” for Christ.**
- **The biggest issue I see daily is lack of character.**
- **Character – how a person acts – is our religion!**
- **Consequences of poor character are terrible.**

You Can Change It

- **Your goal and plan should be to improve it.**
- ***To grow ... in favor with God and man.***
- ***To grow ... in grace and the knowledge of Christ.***
- ***To increase ... more and more as Paul wrote.***
- ***To perfect ... that which is lacking in your life.***

Hear God's Word

“The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.”

Micah 7:2

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Proverbs 20:6

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“He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.”

Psalm 18:19

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Noah

“These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

Genesis 6:9

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Job

“And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?”

Job 1:8

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Samuel

“And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.”

1 Samuel 2:26

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David

“Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.”

I Samuel 18:30

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Timothy

“Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.”

Acts 16:2

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Abigail

“Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.”

I Samuel 15:23

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Ruth

“And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.”

Ruth 3:11

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Areas of Character

- **Spiritual**
- **Marital**
- **Relational**
- **Parental**
- **Professional**
- **Financial**
- **Personal**
- **Physical**
- **National**
- **Social**

Learning Character

- **The subject is very broad and beyond one study.**
- **Everything you think, say, or do is your character.**
- **You should think about it always and everywhere.**
- **As saints, as pastor, we must remind each other.**
- **For a reminder, here are six “C’s” of character.**

The “C’s” of Character

- **Let’s study 6 of 24 traits starting with ‘c’.**
- **Some of the words may not be from the Bible.**
- **But the intent of the character trait is scriptural.**
- **Words we use commonly help us grasp concepts.**
- **Let’s take God’s word and make it real in 2012.**

Cautious - 1

- Careful and slow to weigh risks / contingencies.
- Prudent men foresee evil and hide (Pr 22:3; 27:12).
- They also look well to their going (Pr 14:15).
- It is true ... *it is better to be safe than sorry.*
- *Haste makes waste ... wise men are not hasty.*

Cautious - 2

- *An ounce of prevention = a pound of cure. True!*
- **Faithful men are more like tortoises than hares!**
- **He that hasteth with his feet sinneth (Pr 19:2).**
- **What trait gives more hope to a fool (Pr 29:20)?**
- **Haste exalts folly and brings want (Pr 14:29; 21:5).**

Competent - 1

- Knowledgeable and skilled at a trade or duty.
- Wise men know if they are competent or not.
- Wise men are reticent if they are not competent.
- Wise men know it takes work to be competent.
- Restrain yourself unless very competent to talk.

Competent - 2

- **A transferable skill falls into this character trait.**
- **Paul the scholar was good at sewing (Acts 18:3).**
- **Do not volunteer for things you do not fully grasp.**
- ***You cannot beat a man at his trade. Believe it!***
- **Think Joseph and Daniel, examples of this trait.**

Credit-Worthy - 1

- Financially prudent to earn others' money trust.
- Worthy of receiving loans by certain repayment.
- Employers now check credit for your character.
- Masters love a man they can trust with the safe.
- Who made another's flock whole for any losses?

Credit-Worthy - 2

- **Your ability to advance very far in life requires it.**
- **Faithfulness in little things brings more trust.**
- **Trust with others' money is a goal and flattery.**
- **You earn this privilege by money temperance.**
- **Provide things honest and make everyone whole.**

Cynical - 1

- Prudent pessimism to believe nothing w/o proof.
- Prudence is to thoroughly grasp what is at hand.
- Only simple men believe everything (Pr 14:15).
- This certainly applies to “insider” information.
- There is more “information” than ever before.

Cynical - 2

- **Bereans were noble for checking Paul (Ac 17:11).**
- **Prove all things; hold fast the good (I Thess 5:21).**
- **We receive Bible preaching with a ready mind.**
- ***Things that sound too good to be true ... are not!***
- **Wisdom is able to recognize fools and scams.**

Conscientious - 1

- Sober and serious attitude and approach to life.
- Living by a conscience sensitive and heeded.
- What kept Joseph the most from Mrs. Potiphar?
- How did David treat flocks and men of Nabal?
- How attentive are you to the details of a project?

Conscientious - 2

- **If you ignore your conscience, it will go away!**
- **Men love those who treat their things as their own.**
- **Always clean up jobs? Always roast hunt game?**
- **Do you communicate, clarify, and follow up?**
- **Follow instructions, or your own ideas instead?**

Conviction - 1

- Sense of guilt or shame calling for reformation.
- Some men are past feeling ... past conviction.
- If not acted on, conviction will be less and less.
- No preaching or wisdom can then reach you.
- Pray for it ... appreciate it ... and run with it.

Conviction - 2

- **It is the motive of heaven for doing things right.**
- **It remembers David, “Is there not a cause?”**
- **It takes all preaching to heart ... not to neighbor.**
- **It looks to learn publicly or privately to improve.**
- **What are you going to do about your character?**

You Can Improve It - 1

- **Character starts in the heart – keep it diligently.**
- **All the traits must fit together by mutual limits.**
- **Examine yourself by the traits of this study.**
- **Five inputs taught elsewhere make a difference.**
- **Exercise your spirit and mind in every life event.**

You Can Improve It - 2

- **Let your spouse or parents score you by these 6!**
- **Fill yourself with God's word – Lady Wisdom!**
- **Walk with God for Holy Spirit guide and power.**
- **Follow those that do have great character.**
- **Choose high-charactered friends to convict you.**

You Can Improve It - 3

- **Do less rather than more, but do it perfectly.**
- **Talk less and listen more. Be angry and sin not.**
- **Rule your spirit, for it wants to ruin character.**
- **Cut losses and get away from danger (Ecc1 10:1).**
- **Consider life an opportunity to be more perfect!**

For Further Study

[Traits of Great Men](#)
[Kingdom Reputation](#)
[Solomon's Proverbs](#)
[Managing Your Life](#)
[Relationships Chart](#)
[Male Leadership](#)
[Managing Your Wife](#)
[Christ-Like Men](#)
[A Mighty Man's Life](#)

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