

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

1. The Importance of Character



Introduction

All of us are different! God has given us different personalities – some are easy-going, others serious, some shy, others out-going. But God wants every one of his children to have a good character. He has given us his Son, Jesus, as a model. Unbelievers around us are watching our character. They need to see the character of Jesus in us, then they will believe the message we share. Let's see what these qualities are and how they can be developed in us.

- ◆ Make a list of qualities that you think are important in a person's character.

We will look at two passages from the Bible that show us how these qualities are developed in our lives. The first is in 2 Peter 1:3-11 and the second is in Romans 5:3-5.

- ◆ According to 2 Peter 1:3-4 what is used to develop these qualities in our lives? What does this mean?

(His divine power and his great and precious promises. God has given us the wonderful promise of his Holy Spirit, who lives within the believer, to empower him to live the Christian life.)

- ◆ What will these qualities do in our lives? 2 Peter 1:8-10 Discuss what this means.

(They will keep us from being unproductive and ineffective, and they will keep us from falling. When godly qualities are developed in our lives we will be more effective in everything we do and we will be a testimony to others. Those qualities will help us stand in times of temptation.)

- ◆ What else is used to develop these qualities in our lives according to Romans 5:3-5?

(Suffering)

- ◆ Have you gone through a great difficulty in your life that has helped change you? Can you share?

Perhaps some of us have gone through trials, while others may not have yet. However we need to understand that God allows his children to experience these things. We live in a wicked world and terrible things happen, but as a believer God has promised that he will work all things together for good. In Romans 8:28-29 we are told that through these things we will be changed to become more like Jesus.

- ◆ We have made a list of qualities that are important to have in our lives. Which one of these character qualities do you want God to help you develop in your life right now?

For young people: *(If you are doing this study with young people you may like to use these questions.)*

Character is developed as we grow up. When we are young our parents are our models, but when we are in our teens, friends begin to influence our lives more.

- What warning does God give us about our friends? See 1 Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 1:10, 15
- How are your friends influencing you or are you influencing them?

Usually young people like to follow the crowd. We don't like to be different to others. However, as God's children we are different! That takes courage. If you are willing to put God first he will honour you, so don't be afraid.

Conclusion

Perhaps when you grew up you did not have good role models and you are only beginning to follow Jesus. Or perhaps you have been a Christian for many years. Wherever we are on the journey there is further to go! In 2 Peter 1:8 it says we are to possess these qualities in 'increasing measure', and when we do we will 'receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'

