

November Development Guide

SUBJECT: GODLY CHARACTER



What does it mean to a person of strong character? The definition of character is the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.

Ezekiel 22:23-30

The people of Israel were sinful, and the culture had deteriorated morally. So, their character was poor. They didn't have integrity. When you lack strong character, your courage will also wain. The Bible says in this chapter that the people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery, they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner and deny them justice. They lacked compassion and love for others.

3 thoughts on what it looks like to be a person of godly character:

1. To be a person of godly character you must be a person of integrity

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared/reverenced God and turned away from Evil. - Job 1:1

Integrity is about doing what is right and turning away from Evil.

- Integrity is a picture of your heart.
- You can trust people of integrity you; you can lean on them. They're steady. They make you feel safe. People with strong integrity stand out, they're magnetic and attractive.
- People of integrity are gap fillers; they are people with strength and honor. Having integrity is the foundation of someone with strong biblical character.

2. To be a person of godly character you must have courage

To be courageous means to do something in the face of pain, fear, or grief.

1 Cor: 16:13 says *"be on your guard, stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."*

John 15:13 says *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*

Jesus embodied the greatest form of courage and love by dying on the cross for our sins. Paying our debt, so that we can be with him forever in eternity.

What does courage look like for us on an everyday basis?

Remember the verse in 1 Corinthians - Paul is encouraging us to stand firm in our faith and be courageous. Standing firm in our faith and walking out what God calls us to do in the face of a morally decaying culture is being courageous. Because most of the Bible goes against what you see in culture.

Standing firm in your faith is courageous. This reminds me of one of our values as a church - **Take Faith Risks**

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We say: Our faith in God acts boldly and fearlessly in the midst of life's impossibilities. It does whatever it takes to reach and rescue people because faith works through love.

3. To be a person of godly character you must have compassion.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" - Colossians 3:12

- We are to clothe ourselves in compassion. Compassion is a response to someone hurting. We see this many times in the life of Jesus in which he was filled with compassion with the hurting people around him.
- Part of sympathizing with others' pain and being compassionate is being a good listener.
- We need to listen better. We sympathize with our ears.
- Most people listen with the intent to reply instead of understanding. Good listeners listen with intent to understand the person. Listen to others and be compassionate.

Action steps:

1. You most likely have something that you are dealing with that only you know about. Tell someone. God wants you to. Take the mask off and tell someone what you are dealing with. Don't tell just anyone. Tell a mature Christian in your life. This could be your small group leader, your Dream Team leader, your spouse, or one of our Pastors. This will take courage. It's not easy.
2. Be the listener for someone else. That is compassion. In your life there are people around you that are dealing and going through things. Be the person they can reveal and talk about their hurts, sins, and wounds.
3. Use the questions below to help you evaluate your integrity.

Evaluation Questions:

1. How is your integrity with your family? Do you treat them well, and would they tell someone from knowing you intimately that you are person of integrity?
2. What would your friends say about your integrity? Would they describe you like Abraham, Job, Noah, or Daniel?
3. How does your integrity show up when you go through tough times and trials?
4. Do you do what's right and turn away from evil in times when no one would know?
5. Would you consider yourself to be a person of integrity?