



DEEP ROOTS

A STUDY GUIDE

- I. Pursuit of Character
- II. Gratitude
- III. Clean the Inside: Character vs. Personality
- IV. The Most Excellent Way
- V. Do You Teach Yourself?
- VI. Do I Want What God Wants?

THE PURSUIT OF CHARACTER

- ❖ What is Character?
 - Morals and ethics.
 - Character is who you are when nobody is looking
 - *“Watch your thoughts, for they become words.
Watch your words, for they become actions.
Watch your actions, for they become habits.
Watch your habits, for they become character.
Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.”*
 - *“Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain but it takes character and self control to be understanding and forgiving.”*
 - *Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.*

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:33
 - Nobody feels like they are being deceived
 - Be vigilant and attentive
 - This is a true biblical principle
 - ◆ Bad Character WILL CORRUPT good character
 - ◆ This is as trustworthy as saying that gravity WILL CAUSE you to crash to the ground when you jump off of a roof!

- ❖ Additional Scriptures
 - Psalm 15
 - The life of a person of character
 - Proverbs 10:9
 - Security comes from integrity
 - Proverbs 11:3
 - Integrity can be a guide
 - Proverbs 20:7
 - The children of those with integrity are blessed
 - Am I thinking into the next generation
 - My decisions will have an affect on my kids
 - Titus 2:7
 - Integrity hinders those who oppose the Gospel
 - 2 Peter 1:5-7
 - A short list of character traits disciples should be growing in
 - Character can be built over time
 - Building requires perseverance
 - Peter was writing to Christians: *Baptism does not change character*
 - James 4
 - The enemy of Godly character is the world
 - There are no shortcuts to character

❖ Thought Questions

- Now that you have studied the biblical *principle* of character, what are some *practical* things you can do to achieve Godly character?
- After reading the sample list of character traits, would you be considered a person of character?
- Which do you need the most work on?
- Accountability and openness are two characteristics that are integral in achieving character. Get together with a brother or sister and encourage one another daily, as you spur one another on toward love and good deeds

❖ Sample list of Biblical Character Traits

- Attentiveness
- Blamelessness
- Commitment
- Compassion
- Contentment
- Courage
- Dependability
- Faith
- Fairness
- Forgiveness
- Generosity
- Gentleness
- Gratefulness
- Honesty
- Humility
- Joyfulness
- Love
- Patience
- Self Control
- Service

GRATITUDE

❖ Keystone Verse

- I Thessalonians 5:16-18
 - These are COMMANDS from God
 - Be Joyful Always, Pray Continually, Give THANKS IN EVERY SITUATION

❖ Biblical Principle

- Psalm 100
 - Why give thanks?
 - God is good and faithful
- Psalm 95
 - Why give thanks?
 - God is great!
- 2 Corinthians 9:15
 - Why give thanks?
 - Because of his Indescribable gift!

❖ Case Study I: The Leper

- Luke 17:11-19
- What does true gratitude look like?
- What are some things that the Leper did to express his gratitude that would be challenging to do in your life?

❖ Case Study II: Naaman

- 2 Kings 5
- Describe Naaman's hesitancy. Did he make any excuses?
- Are you an excuse maker? List 5 things that you most commonly make excuse for. How are his excuses like yours?
 - Are you ever hesitant to obey God?
 - In what specific areas?
- After Naaman obeyed and was cleansed, how did his mindset change?
 - A lack of gratitude could be from a lack of obedience
 - Obedience leads to a changed mindset which expresses itself in gratitude

❖ Additional scriptures

- Philippians 4:4-7
 - Anxiety, prayer and gratitude are all linked together in this passage
 - Would you say the Peace of God is guarding your heart?
 - How does my lack of gratitude affect my level of anxiety and prayer life?

CLEAN THE INSIDE OF THE CUP: CHARACTER VS. PERSONALITY

- ❖ *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! **First clean the inside of the cup and dish,** and then the outside also will be clean." Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but **on the inside** are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.*

- ❖ **Biblical Principle**
 - 1 Samuel 16:7
 - *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*
 - 1 Peter 3:3-4
 - *Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

- ❖ **The ROOT not the FRUIT**
 - **Roots of Discipleship**
 - Acts 2:42-46
 - Matthew 22:37-39
 - Galatians 5:6
 - Matthew 6:33
 - **Fruits (the stuff produced by our character/ or lack thereof)**
 - Galatians 5:19-23
 - Often times we try and kill sin by destroying the fruit, yet could we kill a tree by merely picking its fruit? We must destroy the root.

- ❖ **Personal Honesty**
 - Revelation 3:1
 - Do not be fooled by your reputation
 - Character is who you really are; reputation is what others think you are.

- ❖ **Thought Questions**
 - Go to www.tcmdaily.wordpress.com type 'integrity' into the search box. Read the article entitled "6 Steps to Build Character" for some practical ideas

THE MOST EXCELLENT WAY

❖ 1 Corinthians 12:29-13:3

- *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.*

And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

❖ Roadblock to Love: A Critical Spirit

- Luke 18:9-14
 - Lord, thank you I am not like this man
- “Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain and most fools do.” – B. Franklin
- “He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help.” – A. Lincoln

❖ Biblical Principle

- 1 John 4:7-8
 - Love is from God
 - Those who do not Love DO NOT KNOW GOD
- 1 John 4:19-21
 - Why Love? Because we are loved by God
 - Don't love your brother? CANNOT LOVE GOD
- Matthew 5:43-48
 - Love for our enemies is Godly!

❖ Thought Questions

- In your life when are you most apt not to love
 - What excuses do you give for this?
- What keeps you from loving people who don't love you?
 - Retribution, hatred, past situations that are unresolved?
- When you think of your attitude of love list these two names as quick as you can:
 - Who do you love most?
 - Who do you love least?
 - Is there any changes that need to be made in either of these relationships in order to please God?

DO YOU TEACH YOURSELF?

❖ Keystone scripture

➤ Romans 2:17-24

- *But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast of your relationship to God and know his will and approve the superior things because you receive instruction from the law, and if you are convinced that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an educator of the senseless, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the essential features of knowledge and of the truth – therefore you who teach someone else, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who tell others not to commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the law dishonor God by transgressing the law! For just as it is written, “the name of God is being blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”*

❖ Roadblock to teaching ourselves

➤ Victims Mindset

- “Bad things always happen to me”
- Cycle of blame: Always blaming others instead of taking responsibility
- Circumstances dictate response instead of Core Values

➤ Improper balance of discipleship

- We tend to focus on and value the things we are strongest in to justify ourselves before Christ
 - Evangelism
 - Bible Knowledge
 - Disciplined attitude
- 1 Corinthians 9:25-27
 - Paul beats his body and makes it his slave
 - ◆ So AFTER HE HAS PREACHED TO OTHERS he himself will not fall away

❖ Overcoming the obstacles

➤ Focus on having the mind of Christ

- Matthew 22:37: Love with all your mind
- Mark 8:33: Think of the things of God
- Philippians 4: 8: Think on these things
- Romans 8:5-7: What is your mind set on?
- Romans 12:2: Is your mind being renewed by the word?
- Colossians 3:2: Set your mind on things above
- 1 Corinthians 14:20: Stop thinking like children
- 1 Corinthians 9:25-27: What does your training program look like?

❖ Thought Questions

- List some areas where you are apt to blame others
- If you were to go into strict training on one area of your life what would it be?
 - Self control, finances, quiet times, evangelism, taming the tongue?
- List some things that would ensure that your training program is a success
 - Share this with a close brother or sister (Accountable relationships help too!)
- In this study what touched your heart most? Why do you think that is?

DO YOU WANT WHAT GOD WANTS?

❖ Keystone scripture: Matthew 16:21-23

➤ *From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."*

➤ Roadblocks to pursuing God's will

- Fear
- Personal glorification (Matthew 7:21)
- My Will not thy will
 - Professionally
 - ◆ My Job/boss is my Lord
 - Relationally
 - ◆ Yoked together with unbelievers
 - ◆ Being swayed by bad character...and staying
 - ◆ Being right is more important than the relationship
 - Financially
 - ◆ Toys
 - "But it's for the kingdom mentality"
 - ◆ Entertainment
 - ◆ Houses and cars
 - ◆ Vacations
 - ◆ Sacrificial giving

➤ Victorious in God's Will

- Matthew 26:36-46
- Romans 12:1-2
 - Examine the patterns of the world I am conforming to
 - Where does my thinking need to be transformed?

❖ Additional Thought Questions

- How important is it to be in God's will? (See Matthew 7:21-23)
 - List some specific areas that you need deal with?
 - Dating, job, finances, relationships, priorities, closeness to God?