**Character**

**Characteristics of a Great Leader**

**By Dr. T. Neil**

God gave Christians model of true leadership. Something that is lacking in many of our communities today. If we can apply the characteristics taught from a Biblical perspective, then we can become effective community leaders.

* **Character**
  + Those entrusted in service should discharge those functions and regulate their conduct with character and not seek self-interest in respect to the performance of duties.
  + Character is the only sure and secure foundation of indisputable conduct.
  + Character is absent in one that promotes self-preservation, a byproduct of egoism.
  + Character can sanctify power and authority, but power and authority cannot sanctify a flawed character.
  + Character cannot be institutionalized or legitimized where conduct and practices are morally defective.
  + Character cannot be placed in an office.
  + The character is made evident by the manner in which legitimate power and authority are used against the defenseless or one that cannot further their own self-interest.
  + God made men in His own image and likeness; therefore man should display the attributes of God’s character found in the Decalogue.
  + Character can produce reputation
  + The man with good character recognizes that the price of greatest responsibility is to one’s principles and integrity.
  + Character can be sold-out.
  + Character is made by what you stand for.
* **Creation of Man: Origin of True Ethics**
  + Material man was created in the divine image and likeness of God.
  + The image represents the uprightness of God, and the likeness represented the purity of God.
  + Adam was created ethical
* **Distortion of Ethics**
  + Satan destroyed ethics in the Garden of Eden when he implied God’s unethical practice against Adam and Eve (Gen.3).
  + Cain became a rationalist by his open question argument for nihilism (Gen 4:1-26).
  + Emotivism is expressive of God’s attitudes for or against things (Gen. 2:17)
* **Character**
  + Jesus defines character as ‘what comes out of the heart of man.”
  + The work of the flesh is represented in Galatians 5:19-2, the life of egoism.
  + What a person does with trust defines their character.
  + People will always move in direction of their most dominant thought.
  + A flawed character tends to hide within a consensus so that it can be said, “everybody is doing it.’
  + Character is what is in man
  + Character is the image of the man, and his behavior is the shadow if that image.
  + The worth of an individual is appraised based on character.
* **Good Character Traits**
  + Self-praise is not a good recommendation.
  + We define ourselves well, while living in the dark
  + Others define us in the light as we live out the contents of our character.
  + Talent and wisdom are inferior to character.
  + The index of the quality of character bleeds out during interpersonal relationships with those who do not benefit our self-interest, verses those that do
  + Displaying ability to advance, but not at the expense of others.
  + Knowing, accepting, and applauding talents, skills, and attributes in others but not in our self without envy.
  + Enumerated by the fruits of the spirit (Ga. 5:22-26)
  + A blessed character meets and exhibits the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5,7), and forms into habits the nine spiritual graces of Peter (2 Peter 1:3-15)
  + Saul had ability and charisma, but no character.
  + God sought to give King Saul a new heart, but it became darkened (1 Sa 10; Ro. 1:21)
  + David was the direct contrast of King Saul**.**
  + God the king, became a peasant and saved the world; but Saul the peasant became king and destroyed the world (1Sa. 15)
  + Politics vote based on race, culture, relations, and status.
  + God seeks after the heart.
    - King David – warmth, obedience, humility, loyalty, trust, compassion, self-sacrificing, forgiving, and contrite.
  + Left alone in delegation, opportunity knocks for disloyalty.
* Those without character are not kingdom-minded but are self-exalting, boastful, self-promoting, traitors, and eye servitude as men pleasers.
* Where there is an absence of ethics, there will be a deficit of morality.
* **Integrity**
  + The action that comes from the life of good character.
  + Action that places truth, honesty, and the fear of God above talents.
  + A person with integrity cannot be bribed, does not practice partiality, prevent justice, or accept gifts (De. 16:19-20)
  + Holding fast to righteousness (Jo 27:4-6) and is careful to act with equity, judgement, prudence, and uprightly giving a just weight and balance.
  + Has greater value than money (Pt. 19:1, 28:6).
  + Doing what is right regardless of the consequences (Mal. 2:6)
  + Singleness of heart, obedience to truth, not with eye service, not walking in craftiness, not deceitful, and faithful.
  + The express personification of the individual constituent and moral conduct in business, social, familial, and spiritual relationships
  + Not behaving in dishonesty, deceit, extortion, vice, fraudulent, or breach of trust.
  + Evidence of a present lively conscience
  + Testimony of uprightness of a person’s conduct
  + Highway to a person’s value system
  + The priceless treasure of a man in His integrity
  + A man’s best friend is his integrity,
  + Integrity is witnessed by Chastity
  + Integrity is a preservative
  + Justice System of Integrity
    - Respect of person is a sign of absence of integrity.

The above article, “Character- Characteristics of a Great Leader” was written by Dr. T. Neil. This article is excerpted from “Mentoring for Future Leadership” Written by Dr. T. Neil.

The material is copyrighted and should not be reprinted under any other name or author. However, this material may be freely used for personal study or research purposes.