

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARACTER

The Character of Christ: What Holds Our Lives Together

Introduction

Let's make something perfectly clear about the importance of character.

A person may have tremendous faith, intelligence, talent, athletic ability, physical attractiveness, a large ministry, spiritual influence, excellent communication skills, business success, financial resources, or a beautiful home.

But none of these things can compensate for a life that has not developed the nature of Christ to a place of maturity.

When the inward life is not properly developed, eventually there can be a breakdown in other areas of life.

What is built on the outside must be supported by what is being developed on the inside.

1. WHAT WE HAVE IS NOT THE WHOLE STORY

God may give a person tremendous ability and opportunity.

However, **gifting and success do not automatically produce maturity.**

A person can be:

- Highly gifted
- Spiritually influential
- Successful in business
- An excellent teacher
- Financially prosperous
- Talented and accomplished

Yet still have areas of their life that need growth.

This is why we must give attention not only to what God is doing **through us**, but also to what He is doing **within us**.

2. THE GLUE THAT HOLDS US TOGETHER

Think about what glue does.

It is something that **binds things together**.

The teaching connects this idea with the nature of Christ, particularly love.

Colossians 3:14 (AMP)

“And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony].”

Love serves as a bond that brings things together.

This gives us an important spiritual principle:

What holds our lives together must be stronger than what surrounds our lives.

3. LOVE REVEALS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1 John 4:8 (AMP)

“He who does not love has not become acquainted with God... for God is love.”

The development of Christ within us should affect the way we treat other people.

This moves the subject beyond outward appearance.

It affects:

- How we respond under pressure
- How we treat people
- How we handle disagreements
- How we forgive
- How we respond when we are wrong
- How we treat those who have failed

Ask yourself:

Can people see the nature of Christ in the way I respond to them?

4. CHRIST IS THE ONE WHO HOLDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER

Colossians 1:17 (RSV)

“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Colossians 1:17 (AMP)

“And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together).”

Colossians 1:17 (KJV)

“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

Our stability ultimately comes from Christ.

He is not simply another part of our lives.

He is the One in whom all things hold together.

5. MARRIAGE REQUIRES MATURITY

This principle becomes especially important in marriage.

Marriage provides countless opportunities for what is inside us to become visible.

Without growth and maturity, difficulties can eventually lead to a breakdown in the relationship.

The answer is not simply learning how to avoid conflict.

It is learning how to respond to conflict in a Christlike way.

Love, patience, humility, forgiveness, gentleness, and self-control become essential in the everyday realities of marriage.

The teaching specifically emphasizes the importance of this development within marriage.

6. LEARN FROM THOSE WHO FELL

Scripture gives us examples of people who experienced failure even though God used them.

Among those mentioned are:

- Adam and Eve
- King David
- King Solomon
- Peter

These accounts provide lessons and warnings for us today.

Never allow someone's gifting to make you overlook the importance of their life.

And never assume that because God has used someone, they no longer need growth.

Instead, learn from their experiences and allow their failures to help you examine your own life.

7. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND WHEN SOMEONE FALLS?

Galatians 6:1 (AMP)

“BRETHREN, IF any person is overtaken in misconduct or sin of any sort, you who are spiritual... should set him right and restore and reinstate him...”

Paul gives us a clear pattern:

RESTORE

Help the person get back on the right path.

REINSTATE

The objective is restoration—not simply punishment.

GENTLENESS

Deal with the person without harshness.

HUMILITY

Do not approach someone else's failure as though you are superior.

SELF-EXAMINATION

“Keeping an attentive eye on yourself” reminds us that we also must remain watchful.

8. THE LESSON FOR US

Success, gifting, influence, and opportunity can all be valuable.

But they must never become substitutes for spiritual maturity.

The goal is not merely to become:

More gifted.

More successful.

More influential.

More knowledgeable.

The goal is to become **more like Christ**.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take a moment to examine your life.

1. What is God developing within me?
 2. How do I respond when I am under pressure?
 3. How do I treat people when we disagree?
 4. What can I learn from the failures recorded in Scripture?
 5. Am I allowing success or gifting to become more important than spiritual growth?
 6. When someone falls, do I respond with restoration, gentleness, and humility?
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CONCLUSION

The message is not that faith, talent, success, ministry, or achievement are unimportant.

Rather, **they must be supported by a life that is growing in Christ.**

Colossians remind us:

“In him all things hold together.”

Therefore, don't focus only on what God can accomplish **through you**.

Pay attention to what He is developing **within you**.

Let Christ be formed in you—and let Him hold your life together.

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