

# Character

**Godly Traits of Great Christians**

**The “C” Study**

[www.LetGodBeTrue.com](http://www.LetGodBeTrue.com)

# What Is Character?

- The traits that define or describe a person.
- What you are - other than biological factors.
- The lifestyle that makes up your reputation.
- The code of conduct that rules most actions.
- The discipline and defaults for what you do.

# How Is It Measured?

- Your family does not count – they are biased.
- But God's judgment is perfect – and in writing!
- And other good men count – they tell the truth.
- Also by fruit, friends, results, position, or praise.
- We check possible spouses by a character chart.

# How Does It Affect Me?

- It is important for good jobs or a business.
- Friends seek character for pleasure and safety.
- Marriage, young person, depends greatly on it.
- Any testimony for Jesus or truth depends on it.
- Safety, peace, joy, and prosperity depend on it.

# Is It Important?

- The concept, but not the word, is in the Bible.
- A good name is put above wealth (Prov 22:1).
- God saved you to be like His Son (Rom 8:29).
- Sons of God are to avoid offence (I Cor 10:31-33).
- A good one glorifies God and defends the truth.

# It Has Competitors

- The world wants you to worry about your IQ.
- Or how well you do in sports.
- Or how well you do in business.
- Or whether you are attractive or not.
- Or how popular you are with worldlings.

# Is It Important?

- Some may think this subject is not very spiritual.
- But character is how we “Occupy” for Christ.
- The biggest issue I see daily is lack of character.
- Character – how a person acts – is our religion!
- Consequences of poor character are terrible.

# You Can Change It

- Your goal and plan should be to improve it.
- *To grow ...* in favor with God and man.
- *To grow ...* in grace and the knowledge of Christ.
- *To increase ...* more and more as Paul wrote.
- *To perfect ...* that which is lacking in your life.



# Hear God's Word

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Micah 7:2

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# Noah

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# Areas of Character

- Spiritual
- Marital
- Relational
- Parental
- Professional
- Financial
- Personal
- Physical
- National
- Social

# Learning Character

- The subject is very broad and beyond one study.
- Everything you think, say, or do is your character.
- You should think about it always and everywhere.
- As saints, as pastor, we must remind each other.

# The “C’s” of Character

- Let’s study 24 traits starting with ‘c’.
- Some of the words may not be from the Bible.
- But the intent of the character trait is scriptural.
- Words we use commonly help us grasp concepts.
- Let’s take God’s word and make it real in 2012.



# Cautious - 1

- Careful and slow to weigh risks / contingencies.
- Prudent men foresee evil and hide (Pr 22:3; 27:12).
- They also look well to their going (Pr 14:15).
- It is true ... *it is better to be safe than sorry.*
- *Haste makes waste ...* wise men are not hasty.

# Cautious - 2

- *An ounce of prevention = a pound of cure. True!*
- Faithful men are more like tortoises than hares!
- He that hasteth with his feet sinneth (Pr 19:2).
- What trait gives more hope to a fool (Pr 29:20)?
- Haste exalts folly and brings want (Pr 14:29; 21:5).

# Competent - 1

- Knowledgeable and skilled at a trade or duty.
- Wise men know if they are competent or not.
- Wise men are reticent if they are not competent.
- Wise men know it takes work to be competent.
- Restrain yourself unless very competent to talk.

# Competent - 2

- A transferable skill falls into this character trait.
- Paul the scholar was good at sewing (Acts 18:3).
- Do not volunteer for things you do not fully grasp.
- *You cannot beat a man at his trade. Believe it!*
- Think Joseph and Daniel, examples of this trait.

# Credit-Worthy - 1

- Financially prudent to earn others' money trust.
- Worthy of receiving loans by certain repayment.
- Employers now check credit for your character.
- Masters love a man they can trust with the safe.
- Who made another's flock whole for any losses?

# Credit-Worthy - 2

- Your ability to advance very far in life requires it.
- Faithfulness in little things brings more trust.
- Trust with others' money is a goal and flattery.
- You earn this privilege by money temperance.
- Provide things honest and make everyone whole.

# Cynical - 1

- Prudent pessimism to believe nothing w/o proof.
- Prudence is to thoroughly grasp what is at hand.
- Only simple men believe everything (Pr 14:15).
- This certainly applies to “insider” information.
- There is more “information” than ever before.

# Cynical - 2

- Bereans were noble for checking Paul (Ac 17:11).
- Prove all things; hold fast the good (I Thess 5:21).
- We receive Bible preaching with a ready mind.
- *Things that sound too good to be true ... are not!*
- Wisdom is able to recognize fools and scams.



# Conscientious - 1

- Sober and serious attitude and approach to life.
- Living by a conscience sensitive and heeded.
- What kept Joseph the most from Mrs. Potiphar?
- How did David treat flocks and men of Nabal?
- How attentive are you to the details of a project?

# Conscientious - 2

- If you ignore your conscience, it will go away!
- Men love those who treat their things as their own.
- Always clean up jobs? Always roast hunt game?
- Do you communicate, clarify, and follow up?
- Follow instructions, or your own ideas instead?

# Conviction - 1

- Sense of guilt or shame calling for reformation.
- Some men are past feeling ... past conviction.
- If not acted on, conviction will be less and less.
- No preaching or wisdom can then reach you.
- Pray for it ... appreciate it ... and run with it.

# Conviction - 2

- It is the motive of heaven for doing things right.
- It remembers David, “Is there not a cause?”
- It takes all preaching to heart ... not to neighbor.
- It looks to learn publicly or privately to improve.
- What are you going to do about your character?

# Condescending - 1

- Getting down to properly learn and help others.
- God's definition is opposite the world (Ro 12:16).
- No one in the church is too low for you to stoop.
- From children to the aged, we should serve all.
- If you want God to descend to you, then do it!

# Condescending - 2

- Get off your high horse and get down to others.
- There are only *brethren* in our Lord's kingdom.
- Did you honor the three VIP's for a recent event?
- What are halt, lame, and blind for? (Lu 14:12-14).
- What does I Cor 1 and James 2 say about poor?

# Condescending - 3

- Job was noted in the Bible for it (Job 31:13-15).
- Jesus severely warned about offending children.
- Paul was made all things for all men to save.
- Paul would sacrifice any liberty for any man.
- Are you willing to do anything for just one soul?

# Circumspect - 1

- Examine every angle and degree of every action.
- *Circum* = full circle + *spect* = examine.
- To be wise, you must be circumspect (Eph 5:15).
- Godly men do not judge by appearance (Jn 7:24).
- Exhaustively consider a thing before doing it.



# Circumspect - 2

- A multitude of *wise* counselors is God's rule.
- Do you have a good feel, or good business plan?
- Do you see consequences removed and distant?
- Do you see effects on others and their plans?
- How to? Slow down, be critical, be exhaustive.

# Circumspect - 3

- People see things differently – consider them all.
- Prudent men *foresee* – see ahead (Pr 22:3; 27:12).
- Moses added it to all commandments (Ex 23:13).
- Think others are too slow? You are too hasty.
- Think of every negative thing that could occur.

# Contented - 1

- Satisfaction with your place and possessions.
- Contentment is a choice and great gain (1 Ti 6:6).
- Contentment is a commandment (Heb 13:5-6).
- Discontentment will ruin you as a Christian.
- Discontentment is lose-lose: fantasy and reality.

# Contented - 2

- God chose your life for His glory and your profit.
- If walking with God, nothing else matters at all.
- Discontentment does not allow relaxed pleasure.
- Discontentment wastes energy, thought, etc.
- It is a denial of the glorious sovereignty of God.

# Contented - 3

- The happiest people are the most contented.
- It does not allow for complaining (Jude 1:16).
- It does not allow for murmuring (I Cor 10:10).
- You deserve hell fire – anything else is better.
- Our things surpass all nations and generations.

# Childish - 1

- Humble and simple approach to many things.
- You must be childish to enter Christ's kingdom.
- Be childish when it comes to malice (I Cor 14:20).
- Enthusiasm to enjoy the simple things of life.
- How will you condescend without being childish?

# Childish - 2

- Do you eagerly listen to truth like a child to you?
- Solomon's attitude brought God's great blessing.
- Our attitude of being babes will bring blessing.
- Instead of pretences, let us promote innocence.
- Every family needs some "love and fun."  
Recall?

# Childish - 3

- Are you as humble to correction as a little child?
- Compared to God, you are dumber than a child.
- What dulls your zeal? Pretences? Stoicism?
- Why do you resist exhortation to joy? Be a child!
- Are you too “grown up” to love Abba, Father?



# Curious - 1

- Interest in learning how and why of many things.
- This is *intermeddling with all wisdom* (Pr 18:1).
- A concern is curiosity about doctrine and truth.
- A good father, unlike David, is curious (I Kgs 1:6).
- Growth in wisdom requires it or you get dumber.

# Curious - 2

- Prudent men know their industries well (Pr 27:23).
- They go beyond industry to find the best jobs.
- Good husbands learn women and wife (I Pet 3:7).
- Wisdom is to be hunted as hid treasure (Pr 2:1-5).
- You can get answers faster today than ever.

# Curious - 3

- Do you want to dig into God's word for details?
- Do you ask, "Open thou mine eyes..." (Ps 119:18)?
- The eunuch was not content to read the Bible.
- You are to consider one another to help wisely.
- All in authority should search out things (Pr 25:2).

# Christ-Centered - 1

- Your life is prioritized and structured around Him!
- God chose you to conform to His Son (Rom 8:29).
- Glory in Christ more than anything (Gal 6:14).
- God's kingdom is always FIRST in life (Matt 6:33).
- Anything detracting or dulling from it is rejected.

# Christ-Centered - 2

- Do most you meet soon know you're a Christian?
- If a parent, children soon figure out your zeal.
- What did Moses lose for the reproach of Christ?
- What did Paul count everything as in his life?
- Home, bedroom, auto ... Jesus should be Lord!

# Christ-Centered - 3

- The greatest love is to help others please Christ.
- Can you remember, “He Is Altogether Lovely”?
- What is your favorite song? Who is it about?
- How much is your life like Paul’s (II Cor 5:14-15)?
- Love those who correct anything offending Him.

# Considerate - 1

- Thinking about others to be helpful and kind.
- We are bound to consider one another (He 10:24).
- We are to be kindly affectioned also (Rom 12:10).
- When it is good to say, “Thank you,” then do it!
- If a person needs help, then offer it and do it!

# Considerate - 2

- Recall, “Keepers of the Kingdom,” means you.
- Consider what goes into large church events.
- Consider who might be fearful, nervous, worried.
- How many of recent visitors did you greet?
- What have you done recently to thank parents?



# Considerate - 3

- Do you give others ... your desires ... or theirs?
- Do you ever relieve those that serve the most?
- Sensing everyone and everything is circumspect.
- Is a blunt, direct approach always the best?
- Remember David having mercy on the 400!

# Considerate - 4

- Fathers are to show pity (Ps 103:13; Col 3:21).
- Husbands are to be merciful (I Pet 3:7; Col 3:19).
- Do you consider others when you visit (Pr 25:17)?
- Do you consider their time ... emails and calls?
- Communicative? Yes, yes ... but not too much!

# Conventional - 1

- Living in a way accepted by most – in most ways.
- Paul was made all things to all men (I Cor 9:19-23).
- Paul avoided offence to any whenever he could.
- Before *thinking outside the box*, try inside it!
- Loving others includes seemingly conduct (I Co 13:5)!

# Conventional - 2

- Convention generally means tested and proven.
- How do you pick attire, speech, conduct, etc.?
- The farther away from convention the more risk.
- The farther away from convention more offence.
- Christian liberty is true ... but wisely restricted.

# Conventional - 3

- If you like being weird, then limit it to your mind.
- Truth is strange enough ... we need not add to it.
- The more outsiders ... less or more conventional?
- It is our duty to avoid offence wherever we can.
- If throwing out the bathwater ... save the baby!

# Communicative - 1

- Verbally open, honest, thorough, and helpful.
- The “strong, silent type” cannot be a great saint.
- The most help you can give others is by your lips.
- Silence abuses your wife and children (Col 3:21).
- True friends are open and transparent (Jn 15:15).

# Communicative - 2

- A good word fitly spoken is beautiful (Pr 25:11).
- Gracious speech is what wins kings (Pr 22:11).
- A good thought not expressed is worthless.
- A good word makes a heavy heart glad (Pr 12:25).
- Being thankful falls short: you must give thanks.

# Communicative - 3

- A tree of life and soul winner requires talking.
- Good news from a far country is like ... (Pr 25:25).
- Is it possible to say 'thank you' too many times?
- Reviewing and checking details is comforting.
- Should parents have to beg to hear from you?



# Confident - 1

- Bold courage to do anything needed or wanted.
- The righteous are bold as a lion (Pr 28:1). Are you?
- What kind of man sees lions (Pr 22:13; 26:13)?
- Not self-confidence ... but God-confidence!
- David ran thru a troop and leaped a wall. How?

# Confident - 2

- The fear of man brings a snare ... so trust God!
- If Jesus is with us, we may boldly say ... (Heb 13:6).
- Do you know that guilt will remove manhood?
- Do your reasonable best ... trust God for the rest.
- Nothing is too hard for Him: submit plans to Him.

# Confident - 3

- How should believers approach the living God?
- In what would David be confident (Ps 27:3)?
- Humility reduces arrogance ... not confidence.
- What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee (Ps 56:3).
- Devise a way in your heart – let Him direct steps.

# Cheerful - 1

- Joyful happiness and excitement about anything.
- Christians are to rejoice – they should be happy.
- *But the world? ... Be of good cheer, Jesus won!*
- Your testimony totally loses if you are depressed.
- Everyone is glad to be around a cheerful person.

# Cheerful - 2

- God has put great joy in our hearts ... show it!
- What did kings think of sad sacks in old times?
- God will judge those not glad for all things.
- Wives and children suffer, if you are cast down.
- If all were cheerful all the time ... what a church!

# Cheerful - 3

- Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine!
- Your worst case is infinitely better than hell fire!
- You own all things for all eternity! What's wrong?
- Jesus never fails, so why not trust him and shout!
- What makes a cheerful countenance (Pr 15:13)?

# Cooperative - 1

- Agree to happily submit to the wishes of others.
- Why the lesson of the desert locust (Pr 30:27)?
- We submit ourselves to one another (Eph 5:21).
- Can two walk together unless agreed (Am 3:3)?
- Can you get excited about another's ideas?

# Cooperative - 2

- Do you build the family by praising each member.
- We are to endeavor for unity of peace (Eph 4:3).
- Do you rejoice or weep with those doing such?
- A church is for loving and serving, not vice versa.
- The ultimate – celebrating a repenting sinner!



# Cooperative - 3

- If you vote the minority, do you love the majority?
- Are you envious or ecstatic of others' blessings?
- If in authority, can you compromise and still win?
- With a group, where do you suggest to eat?
- How many Indians for every chief? Do you get it?

# Conscious - 1

- Well aware of what you are doing and its effects.
- This is not a medical definition for being awake.
- Some talk and act like their mind is far, far away.
- Awareness to others and your effect is crucial.
- Offending others carelessly is sin (I Cor 10:31-33).

# Conscious - 2

- Offence caused by insensitivity can be avoided.
- Offence, if not malicious, is being unconscious.
- Some parents cannot hear their own children.
- Sarcastic cutting can leave others bleeding.
- Conscious of bladder but not others? Drink less!

# Conscious - 3

- Alert, sensitive, concerned for circumstances?
- Conscious of announcements, or just careless?
- Going through the motions or pacing is not good.
- Do not just let life happen ... take it by the horns.
- Do you feel others' lives, space, feelings, etc.?

# Conservative - 1

- The least risky of two otherwise neutral options.
- All things may be lawful ... are they expedient?
- All things may be lawful ... could it be binding?
- What two creatures fit a foolish surety (Pr 6:5)?
- Christian liberty is a fact ... but it is not license!

# Conservative - 2

- Successful men are temperate in all things.
- Violating your conscience makes anything a sin.
- It is better to understate than to exaggerate.
- Music and television should be ruled harshly.
- The stricter you are with friends the better.

# Conservative - 3

- Modesty is not for concluding ... *close enough*.
- Only if you require it of others is it Pharisaism.
- Avoid flies in the ointment (Ecc1 10:1). Stay safe.
- Ounce of prevention = pound of cure (I Cor 8:13).
- We live here. Think drink, dress, speech, etc.

# Classy - 1

- Cultured, refined, liberal way of doing things.
- Opposite of redneck, crude, rude, country, etc.
- Think of the slang intentions of these words.
- God chose poor and base, but there is no virtue.
- There is more than one way to perform any act.



# Classy - 2

- Classy conduct adorns what you do with grace.
- What of Elijah and John? They were exceptions!
- Think Araunah's deed ... *as a king* (II Sam 24:23).
- It does not have to be costly ... just done well.
- Don't expect elegance from your wife, if brutish.

# Classy - 3

- This is derived from being without offence.
- This is connected to devising liberal things.
- This is doing everything to adorn Christianity.
- This is a good report without e.g. Cornelius.
- Think clothes, cleanliness, courtesy, etc.

# Compassionate - 1

- Affectionate benevolence to a troubled person.
- Empathetic sympathy for others in any distress.
- This has nothing to do with you ... but others.
- Who and whom in Nain fit the matter (Lu 7:11-13)?
- Do you grasp, “As bound with them,” in He 13:3?

# Compassionate - 2

- Do you have bowels of mercy for those suffering?
- When in authority, do you love to forgive others?
- Can you overlook faults, knowing others' frame?
- Think ... others have lives ... greater than yours!
- Stop thinking and talking about yourself ... now!

# Compassionate - 3

- It is weeping or rejoicing with others (Rom 12:15).
- It must be practiced in soul winning (Jude 1:22).
- It should extend to the whole body of the church.
- If you can help others, bowels should demand it!
- How much is a soul worth? Gadarene! Eunuch!

# Clever - 1

- Prudence and wisdom for examining and acting.
- A synonym for knowledge and understanding.
- Clever answers take study and thought (Pr 15:28).
- Clever choices require cynicism and caution.
- Clever men handle matters wisely (Pr 16:20).

# Clever - 2

- How clever are you at managing your wife's life?
- How clever at winning your children's hearts?
- Watch and learn from those older and wiser.
- Ask questions and use a multitude of counselors.
- God will give liberal wisdom to those that ask.

# Clever - 3

- Learn to look well beyond appearance (John 7:24).
- Fill yourself with wisdom of Proverbs (Pr 1:1-6).
- Recall God's priorities are different (Matt 12:7).
- We have the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16). Do you?
- Where are the Bible-answer men and women?



# Charity - 1

- The greatest grace and bond of perfectness.
- The definition is sweet and thorough (I Cor 13:4-7).
- This is how you should treat each person in life.
- Your religion is totally vain without godly love.
- How glorious are you to overlook faults (Pr 19:11)?

# Charity - 2

- Do you believe and hope all things for peace?
- It is more forgiving others than sending cards.
- Do you rejoice to devise liberal things (Is 32:8)?
- Divide the Samaritan from the Haiti earthquake.
- Love is the greatest proof of God, for He is love.

# Charity - 3

- This proof of election is stated twice (II Pet 1:5-7).
- We allow and go as far as we can with anyone!
- Pure religion is doing what for whom and when?
- A kind of charity can cover many sins (I Pet 4:8).
- Charity is greater than an apostle (I Cor 12:28-31)!

# You Can Improve It - 1

- Character starts in the heart – keep it diligently.
- All the traits must fit together by mutual limits.
- Examine yourself by the traits of this study.
- Five inputs taught elsewhere make a difference.
- Exercise your spirit and mind in every life event.

# You Can Improve It - 2

- Let your spouse or parents score you by these 6!
- Fill yourself with God's word – Lady Wisdom!
- Walk with God for Holy Spirit guide and power.
- Follow those that do have great character.
- Choose high-charactered friends to convict you.

# You Can Improve It - 3

- Do less rather than more, but do it perfectly.
- Talk less and listen more. Be angry and sin not.
- Rule your spirit, for it wants to ruin character.
- Cut losses and get away from danger (Eccl 10:1).
- Consider life an opportunity to be more perfect!

# For Further Study

Traits of Great Men  
Kingdom Reputation  
Solomon's Proverbs  
Managing Your Life  
Relationships Chart  
Male Leadership  
Managing Your Wife  
Christ-Like Men  
A Mighty Man's Life

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