

Developing Christian Character



Development of Christian Character

- Developing our character to be more Christ-like is a lifetime endeavor
- Reading and understanding The Bible is paramount
- Both the Old and New Testament can help keep us on track

What Hinders Christian Character

Pro 6:16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

Pro 6:17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

Pro 6:18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

Pro 6:19 A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

And the NT Specifies...

Gal 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Haughty Eyes...

Haughtiness, conceitedness of ourselves, and contempt of others - *a proud look*. There are seven things that God hates, and pride is the first, because it is at the bottom of much sin and gives rise to it. God sees the pride in the heart and hates it there;

...Haughty Eyes

...but, when it prevails to that degree that the show of men's countenance witnesses against them that they overvalue themselves and undervalue all about them, this is in a special manner hateful to him, for then pride is proud of itself and sets shame at defiance.

A Lying Tongue...

Jas 3:1 Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.

Jas 3:2 For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

Jas 3:3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

The Tongue...

Jas 3:4 Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

Jas 3:5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

The Tongue...

Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.

Jas 3:7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed by the human race.

The Tongue

Jas 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison.

Jas 3:9 With it we bless *our* Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

Jas 3:10 from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

How Common is Lying?

A study was published in the Journal of Basic and Applied Psychology about the act of lying. The experiment involved two strangers conversing with each other for 10 minutes, while their conversations were recorded. Although each subject believed they had been telling the truth, after reviewing the footage, the scientists found that 60 percent of all subjects lied within 10 minutes, and the average amount of lies during this time span was 2.92 per subject.

Hands That Shed Innocent Blood

Gen 4:7 "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Gen 4:8 And Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Gen 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

A Heart that Devises Wicked Plans

Gen 19:10 But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

Gen 19:11 And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied *themselves trying* to find the doorway...

...Devising Wicked Plans

Gen 19:12 Then the men said to Lot,
"Whom else have you here? A son-in-law,
and your sons, and your daughters, and
whomever you have in the city, bring *them*
out of the place;

Gen 19:13 for we are about to destroy this
place, because their outcry has become so
great before the LORD that the LORD has
sent us to destroy it."

Feet that Run Rapidly to Evil

Rom 3:13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPES IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

Rom 3:14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

Rom 3:15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD

A False Witness Who Utters Lies

Mat 26:59 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, in order that they might put Him to death;

Mat 26:60 and they did not find *any*, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward,

Mat 26:61 and said, "This man stated, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.'"

One Who Spreads Strife Among Brothers

1Ti 5:11 But refuse *to put* younger widows *on the list*, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married,

1Ti 5:12 *thus* incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge.

1Ti 5:13 And at the same time they also learn *to be* idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper *to mention*.

So How Are We Supposed to Be?



God's Word Tells Us

Gal 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

The Christian Spirit...

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The Christian Spirit

Gal 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Gal 5:26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

The Invitation

- * Put on Christ through baptism if you are not a Christian
- * Desire to be more like Christ, if you already are a Christian
- * Work on eliminating those behaviors you know God finds detestable