

It's easy to love those who love you.

It's easy to agree with those who teach what you believe.

It's easy to be patient when you have lots of time, the situation isn't threatening and the outcome makes no difference.

It's easy to be kind when it costs you nothing.

It's easy to serve God when:

the preacher is good

the sermon is short

there aren't any temptations

everyone is sweet, kind, agreeable, and

convinced you are right

I used to tell people, “I am the easiest boss in the world! As long as everything is going well and people are behaving as I think they should be, I just never have a problem with my employees.”

Character is defined not by how you are when things are going your way but rather when they aren't.

What you are consists of what you do --

The deeds you do for others

The way you behave:

around Christians

around co-workers

around friends

The way you dress

The deeds we have done in life are remembered by others

Act 9:36 Now in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity, which she continually did.

Act 9:39 And Peter arose and went with them. And when he had come, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

The deeds we have done in life are remembered by
others

Col 1:5-7 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven,
of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the
gospel, (6) which has come to you, just as in all the
world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing,
even as it has been doing in you also since the day you
heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; (7)
just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow
bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our
behalf,

What you are consists of the way you behave around Christians

Gal 2:11-13 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. (12) For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. (13) And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

What you are consists of the way you behave
around co-workers

Php 1:12-13 Now I want you to know, brethren,
that my circumstances have turned out for the
greater progress of the gospel, (13) so that my
imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become
well known throughout the whole praetorian guard
and to everyone else,

What you are consists of the way you behave
around friends

Act 15:37-39 And Barnabas was desirous of taking John, called Mark, along with them also. (38) But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. (39) And there arose such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

What you are consists of –

What you say

How you say it

Whether you're willing to say it

Why you say it

The way you react to others:

who criticize

who question

who are complaining

What you are consists of the way you see yourself

1Co 9:22-23 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some. (23) And I do all things for the sake of the gospel, that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

What you are consists of the way you dress

1Pe 3:3-4 And let not your adornment be merely external -- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; (4) but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

What you are consists of what you say

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

And how you say it

Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

What you are consists of whether you're willing to say it

Eph 5:11 And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

What you are consists of why you say it

Jas 5:19-20 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, (20) let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

Are you willing to speak the truth?

Gal 2:11-13 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. (12) For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. (13) And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

Will you speak when you're disappointed?

Gal 4:15-16 Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness, that if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. (16) Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?

What you are consists of the way you react to others who criticize

Gal 2:4-5 But it was because of the false brethren who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage. (5) But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.

What you are consists of the way you react to others who question

Act 8:30 And when Philip had run up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Do you have the time to help?

What you are consists of the way you react to others who are complaining

Jas 5:7-9 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. (8) You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. (9) Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

When you examine yourself:

What kind of character do you find?

There are only two types

A Christian?

One following darkness!

Act 22:16 Now, don't wait any longer. Get up, be baptized and wash away your sins, trusting in Jesus to save you.'