

1 **SHAPING THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S SERVANT**

Attracting People to You

2 3 **WHAT IS CHARACTER?**4 **ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE**

1 Samuel 13:14 NIV

¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

1 Samuel 16:7 Message Bible

⁷ But God told Samuel, "Looks aren't everything. Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. God judge persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart."

Acts 6:3 NKJV

³ Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

5 **CHARACTER IS...**

- ...the internal being of a person that is displayed in our actions and beliefs.
- ...who you are when nobody is watching.
- ...what God uses as the prerequisite to quality leadership.

6 **CORRELATION BETWEEN CHARACTER AND INFLUENCE**

- People are attracted to a person's character, *a person's ethos*-their ethics
- When a person's character is questionable or ungodly, people have a difficult time even willing to listen to them let alone follow their leadership.
- Good character opens the door for even meager men to have great followings.
- Aristotle says that people tend to believe (or follow) someone whom they respect.

7 **SHAPING OUR CHARACTER**

THROUGH SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

8 **SHAPING OUR CHARACTER**

Character and virtue are enhanced through experience, time, and constant testing.

9 **WHAT IS SPIRITUAL FORMATION?**10 **A DEFINITION**

Spiritual formation is an intentional, methodical process of developing a person's spiritual identity with being like Christ as its result.

11 **A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

BASE OUR ACTIONS ON GOD'S WORD

12 **ROMANS 12:1, 2 NASB**

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* ² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

13 **1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8 GNT**

⁷ Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly.

⁸ "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."

14 **SEVEN REASONS SPIRITUAL FORMATION SHAPES CHARACTER**

15 **ACCORDING TO ROMANS 12:1, 2**

1. Spiritual formation is a response to God's grace and mercy. "I urge you, by the mercies of God..."
2. Spiritual formation is an act of worship. "...to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship..."
3. Spiritual formation begins in the inner person and ultimately involves the entire person. "...but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

16 **ACCORDING TO ROMANS 12:1, 2**

4. Spiritual formation counters the sinful power of the world through transformation of the inner person. "...And do not be conformed to this world, ..."
5. Spiritual formation enables the believer to act in accordance with God's will. "...so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

17 **ACCORDING TO 1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8**

4. Spiritual formation has as its end goal godliness. "Instead, train yourself to be godly."
5. Spiritual formation requires committed discipline. "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better..."

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19 **THE MEANS OF SHAPING OUR SOUL**

Practicing Spiritual Disciplines

20 **THE DISCIPLINE OF SIMPLICITY**

This is all that I have learnt: God made us plain and simple, but we have made ourselves very complicated. Ecclesiastes 7:29 (GNT)

21 **THE DISCIPLINE OF SIMPLICITY**

Simplicity

- sets possession in proper perspective.
- rejoices in the gracious provision from the hand of God.
- reorients our lives so that possessions can be genuinely enjoyed without destroying us.
- sets us free to receive the provision of God as a gift that is not ours to keep and can be freely shared with others.

22 **WAYS TO SIMPLICITY**

1. Buys things for their usefulness rather than their status.
2. Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
3. Develop a habit of giving things away.
4. Refuse to be propagandized by the custodians of modern gadgetry.
5. Learn to enjoy things without owning them.

23 **WAYS TO SIMPLICITY**

6. Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation.
7. Look with a healthy skepticism at those "buy now, pay later" schemes.
8. Obey the Lord's commands about plain, honest speech.
9. Reject anything that breeds oppression of others.
10. Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the Kingdom of God.

24 **THE DISCIPLINE OF SOLITUDE AND SILENCE**

Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil. Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few. For the dream comes through much effort and the voice of a fool through many words. Ecclesiastes 5:1-3 (NASB)

25 **THE DISCIPLINE OF SOLITUDE AND SILENCE**

Solitude and Silence

- is more a state of mind and heart than a place
- it can be maintained at all times
- it is inner fulfillment
- it the freedom to be alone, not in order to be away from people but in order to hear the divine Whisper better.

26 **WAYS TO SOLITUDE AND SILENCE**

1. Take advantage of the little solitudes of the day; early morning or evening time
2. Develop a quiet place that is designed for solitude and silence
3. Try to live one entire day without words at all
4. Withdraw four times a year for 3-4 hours for the purpose of reorienting your life goals
5. Once a year (every other at the most) go on a spiritual treat for 2-3 days alone taking only a Bible, a pen, and note pad.

27 **THE DISCIPLINE OF SUBMISSION**

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. Mark 8:34 (NASB)

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the

point of death, even the death of the cross Phil 2:8 (NKJV)

28 THE DISCIPLINE OF SUBMISSION

Submission ...

- is really about freedom,
- it is the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always having things your way
- in it we can freely distinguish between real issues and stubborn self-will
- through it we are better able to value people
- it helps us realize that our happiness is not dependent upon getting what we want

29 WAYS OF SUBMISSION

1. Daily yielding to the Triune God
2. Continual submission to the Scripture
3. Working synergistically with our family
4. Yielding ourselves to neighbors and others in our lives
5. Giving of ourselves to the local Body of Christ
6. Helping the broken and despised
7. Being a responsible citizen of the world

30 THE DISCIPLINE OF SERVICE

"If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. John 13:14–16 (NASB95)

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31 THE DISCIPLINE OF SERVICE

Service

- is about yielding self to others,
- is being big enough to stoop low
- is not affected by personal emotions
- is not in need of external rewards, does not fracture community

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32 WAYS OF SERVICE

1. Doing your deeds in hiddenness
2. Doing the small things for others
3. Guarding the reputation of others
4. Allowing others to serve you
5. Acts of common courtesy
6. Showing hospitality
7. Giving your ear to listen

8. Bearing the burdens of others
9. Sharing the Word of Life with one another