

Character Counts (2)

Genesis 39:1-23

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Titus 2:7 "...in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility..."

Character: Consistently doing the right thing in the right way.

"Just doing the right thing does not make you spiritual. True spirituality is being the right person."—Richard Brown

Character: a result of your discipline.

1. A person of character has the ability to rise above their circumstances!

Vs 2 "He was a successful man...23...and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper."

How? He had the:

A) Right Assistance.

Vs 2 "The LORD was with Joseph...."/ 4 times.

Hebrews 13:6 "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Romans 8:31 "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

B) Right Attitude.

No where does it say that Joseph complained.

Every right to be angry: family—murder/ sold/ falsely accused/ prison

Some of you are mad because of your circumstances.

"You can't determine your circumstances, but when you have the right attitude you get the best out of circumstances and rise above your circumstances."

What does having a bad attitude accomplish?

- a. Sours our confidence.
- b. Misdirects our efforts.
- c. Dilutes our stamina and purpose.
- d. Jams our planning.
- e. Cuts us off from help.

"Attitude is the single most significant decision I make daily. More important than my past, my education, my bankroll, my success, failure, fame, or pain, what others think or say of me, my circumstances or position.

Attitude keeps me going or cripples my progress. It alone fuels my fire or assaults my hope. When my attitudes are right, there is no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, and no challenge too great for me. "—Charles Swindoll

Excuses are really expressions of a bad attitude.

C) Right Approach.

Vs 9 "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Gen. 42:18 "For I fear God."

He an incredible respect for the LORD!!!

His ability to reject this temptation reflects a Spirit led life!!!

Illustration: College baseball—As a hitter, if you have the right approach when you go to the plate you will be successful.

2. A person of character has the ability to face life's toughest challenges alone.

Vs 11 "...when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside....**12**...she caught him by his garment..."

Vs 10 "...day by day..."

"Character is what we are when nobody is watching."

What are you like when nobody is watching? On your dates/ movies/ sites you visit on the internet/ pictures you take of yourself

Strong character comes from God centered priorities!!! 10 Commandments had not been issued yet.

Joseph—It was better to offend Potiphar's wife than offend God.—WOW!!!

Tell you two products of godly character:

A) Will keep you pure.

In terms of desire:

Romans 13:14 "But put on the LORD Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

Illustration: Fire when I was a little boy crossed the boundary and came into our field! Nothing wrong with that fire until it crossed the boundary.—Same is true with sex, nothing wrong with it, when it is inside the boundaries of marriage, but when it crosses that boundary it becomes extremely dangerous.

Once you have exposed yourself to the physical pleasure....Girls there is something for you to learn here too!!!

Trying to seduce Joseph!

Vs 12 "She caught him by his garment, saying, 'Lie with me.'--Translate

She lusted/ Never should a Christian girl seduce the boy she is dating.

Strive to be a young woman of great character:

Proverbs 31:30 "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:25 "Strength and honor are her clothing..."

Proverbs 31:10 "Who can find a virtuous wife (wife of valor)? For her worth is far above rubies..."

Proverbs 12:4 "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband....but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones."

In terms of disease:

Psychology—prefrontal cortex of the brain is the last part of the brain to mature. This area deals with anticipation, planning, and impulse control.

Non-existent in infancy, but becomes more efficient over the years of childhood and adolescence.

Illustrate: Jadyne dove off my chest on the couch the other day because she wanted to.

The reason some of you give into the sexual impulses/fail to stop to consider the consequences.

Proverbs 17:25 "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him."

Proverbs 15:20 "A wise son makes his father glad."

In the United States, young persons aged 15-24 make up only ¼ of the sexually active population but account for ½ of all sexually transmitted diseases.

Non-Christian author gave three reasons why adolescent sexual activity can be problematic:

- Puberty occurs at young ages. Early sexual experiences are connected with depression and drug use.
- Raising a child has become more complex, which means that teenage pregnancy is no longer welcomed or expected.
- Sexually transmitted diseases are more common and dangerous.

Chlamydia—most commonly reported disease, can cause life long infertility.

Human papillomavirus (HPV)—increases the chances of fatal uterine cancer.

HIV—can have no symptoms for years, and then cause AIDS and death.

B) Will keep you protected.

Vs 21 “But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and he gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.”

Contrast that with the story of Samson and Delilah: Judges 16:16, 20 “And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death.....20.....”But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.”

The reason I have shared this with you: You want to stay in the will of God, and you want to stay in a position to be blessed by God.

Story: Clay Travis is a college football Writer for FanHouse Tim Tebow--The most popular player in SEC history is saving himself for marriage. Unbelievable. I asked him this afternoon [if he was a virgin], and he didn't even blink before responding. He handled it masterfully.

3. A person with character will stand out in the crowd.

Vs 3 “And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.”—What a testimony.

Sports illustrated: “Faces in the crowd.” Pg 24 Dillon Baxter—outstanding athletic achievement.

Joseph’s story—4,000yrs old. One of the most powerful testimonies and stories in all the bible.

Conquered a temptation that claims thousands of teens a day. Without hesitation/compromise.

If you want to be a stand out you have to:

- Do what no one else will do.
- Understand that you will be alienated and slandered.
- Hold dear to God’s commands.

Quote: Persecution today is better than shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ.—Romans 8:28