

Character Counts (3)

Psalms 18:1/ Psalms 51:3-4/ Psalms 19:14

Intro—

Proverbs 22:1 “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches....” Are you striving..

“Your life may be the only bible some people read...”

Character: Consistently doing the right thing the right way!

Character: True Spirituality is being the right person.

Character: Your personality is formed by attitudes and grows out of your character.

David’s personality was one of boldness, passion, charisma.

David most known for:

His defeat of Goliath/ I Samuel 17

His sin with Bathsheba/ Urriah II Samuel 11

Three reasons why David was a man of character:

- 1. He was a man unashamed of his love for God.**

Unashamed—not restrained by embarrassment.

Psalms 18:1 “I will love You, O LORD, my strength.”—personal/ 13

Love—describes a very intimate desire. A love of complete devotion and surrender.

Choice- James Dobson: “It is important to know that you have to work to keep love alive; you have to protect it and maintain it, just like you would a delicate flower.”

David was a man’s man:

Skilled hunter: I Samuel 17:34-6 “But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from it’s mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear;”

Warrior: Killed Goliath---huge man when he was only a youth. I Samuel 17:51 “Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it.”

Established King: Mighty men served and fought for him, conquered enemy territories, and was filthy rich.

All that sounds impressive, but what is most impressive is the fact that he was unashamed of his love for God!!!

Demonstrated by:

- A) Bold worship.—others influence.**

Psalms 34:1 “I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

Illustration: Andre Wadesworth of the Arizona Cardinals in Phoenix.—About 6’4”, 275lbs—praising the Lord.

- B) Bold witness.**

Psalms 34:2 “My soul shall make its boast in the LORD...”—Hal Hodgins

- C) Bold wishes.**

II Samuel 7:29 “Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for you, O LORD

GOD, have spoken it, **and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.**"

David's love for God was evidenced in everything he did!

David desired to be used of God!!!

David had big dreams.

Do you want to do something great for God?

"Those with great dreams for God will develop character because they will be forced to live by standards outside themselves."

You can't do anything great for God living by your own standards, you have to live by His!!

Accomplishing greatness requires humility, sacrifice, and persistence.

"If you haven't failed, you haven't tried."

A) You must learn to deal with failure.

There is a difference between "I failed" and "I'm a failure." Don't wear failure like a suit.

B) Failure is part of the journey.

"Failure is only the opportunity to begin again, only this time more wisely."—Henry Ford

C) Failure should not control you.

"Get Christians preoccupied with failure. From there the battle is won."—C.S. Lewis

Psalms 45:17 "I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever."

D) Failure should teach you, not hinder you.

Learn from each failure.

Illustration: A 31.6 PPG career scoring average, 6 titles, 5 MVPS, 6 Finals MVPS and an NCAA national championship-- "I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."~ *Michael Jordan*

"Character is measured not by how many times a person gets knocked down, but by how many times they get back up."

2. He was a man who was restored back to a right relationship with God.

I Corinthians 10:12 "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

Psalms 51:3-4 "For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I **sinned**, and done this **evil** in your sight..."

Sinned—to miss. Miss the mark/ target.

Your sight—Initially he tried to cover up what he had done.

Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."

Restoration possible because:

A) He admitted he was wrong.

Real character is measured by what a person will admit.

Some of you need to admit your wrong!!!
Parent/ friend/ etc.

B) He acknowledged the severity of his sin.

Sinned against God and God alone. Water it down, it's not as bad as what that person did.

C) He accepted full responsibility.

Didn't make excuses/ point fingers/ deny/ say yes, but.....

Example: Genesis 2:10-12 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom **You** gave to be with me, **she** gave me of the tree, and I ate."

Excuses don't get you anywhere with God!!

Illustration: Me-world's worst at excuses.

All three of these characteristics demonstrate tremendous character.

There is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience.
~French Proverb

3. He was a man who desired excellence in every area of his life.

Psalms 19:14 "Let the words of my **mouth** and the **meditation** of my heart be **acceptable (delight) in Your sight**, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer."

Two of the hardest areas to control are the ones David targeted.

A) Excellent in speech.

Reason for cussing: Parent/ friends/ coaches

Perverted talk: Dirty jokes, disrespectful talk.
Girls/ guys

James 1:19-20 "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak,

slow to wrath, for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

James 3:2 "For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect (mature) man, able also to bridle the whole body."

Matthew 15:10-11 "Hear and understand...not what goes into the mouth **defiles** a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this **defiles** a man."

What comes out of your mouth is evidence of what is in your heart.

Defile—to make profane, pollute.

B) Excellent in thought & intent.

What I think about deep inside that no one else knows.

Matthew 15:18-19 "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

Character: Show me what person laughs at and cries at and I will show you that person's character.

Psalms 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

I Chronicles 22:19 "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God."

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Closing story: The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he never would be found out.