



Covenant University

Raising a new Generation of Leaders

CHARACTER: BASIC FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

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DEFINITIONS

•WHAT IS CHARACTER?

- Character is the sum total of the qualities that make up a man's personality.
- It talks about the way a man behaves
- His response to changes in the socio-political and economic circumstances of his environment.



•Who we are or who people think we are is our identity but what we do, what we say, how we react to issues define our character. Ultimately, our character will determine our personality and our personality will determine our rating and worth - **Mat 7:20** *by their fruits ye shall know them*. Great personality is therefore a function of good character.



•WHAT IS FOUNDATION

- An underlying basis or principle
- The lowest load bearing part of a building typically below ground level
- The basis (such as a tenet, principle, or axiom) upon which something stands or is supported



•SUCCESS

- Favourable or desired outcome
- An event that accomplishes its intended purpose
- The accomplishment of an aim or purpose
- The good outcome of an undertaking



• QUALITIES OR ATTRIBUTES OF CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

• HONESTY

- being faithful in all areas of life
- living an upright life
- being straight forward in life (not wayward)
- being faithful to God and man



It is possible to be honest in one or more areas and be dishonest in some other areas. Dishonesty is the opposite of honesty



•ASPECTS OF DISHONESTY

a) Lying (Colossians 3:9)

- Lying means not telling the truth. It is telling the exact opposite of a thing or matter. By lying, you withdraw away from God to Satan and from light to darkness. Satan has been a liar from the beginning.



- Effects of Lying:
- It has no positive effect
- It destroys trust

- HOW TO STOP LYING

- Determination and the Help of God



– Slandering (Psalm 15:1-3)

- This simply means the utterance of false charge against another person with the intention to damage his image. God gave a strong instruction concerning this (Ephesians 4:31-32)
- Effects of Slandering:
- It will cause you to lose respect, dignity and people



• Deceit (1 Peter 3:10)

- This means presenting a lie as the truth and persuading others to believe the lie as the truth.
- Effects of Deceit
- It is a poison. Therefore it can shorten one's life (Acts 5:1-10) Ananias and Sapphira.
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• Cheating (1 Thessalonians 4:6)

- It is an act of robbery, taking things which do not belong to you by force. God's Word is against it.

- **Effects of Cheating**

- You gain nothing by cheating; rather you lose all by it once it is discovered.

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•SUMMARY:

- God demands complete honesty in every area of our lives.
- When you deal in honesty, you will have a free conscience with God and man



•MORAL EXCELLENCE

- This talks about one's mode of life or a person's general conduct.
- Your moral life is dependent upon certain factors, viz:
 - Your Thoughts
 - Your Words
 - Your Deeds



- **YOUR THOUGHTS:**

- A man's action is principally guided by the thoughts of his heart. Though your thoughts are not visible, they are eventually transformed into action which can be seen and read. Proverbs 23:7, *"For as a man thinketh ..."*

- Therefore your thoughts ultimately determines your actual person.



•WEAPONS TO GUARD THE HEART:

- Because the heart is a fertile ground to receive either good or bad seed, it is necessary to guard it jealously. The following weapons could be employed:

- The Word of God: Psalm 119:11

- “Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*



- **The Name of Jesus:** Proverbs 18:10
*“The name of the Lord is a strong tower,
the righteous runneth into it and he’s
safe.”*
- When you run into the name of Jesus,
you shall be free from all the wiles of the
enemy.



- **The Blood of Jesus:** Revelations 12:11 *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb ...”*
- John 10:10 *“the devil cometh not but to steal, kill and destroy ...”*



- **The Holy Spirit** (Acts 1:8)
 - The Holy Spirit supplies the power to overcome the devil and to do God's will.
- Isaiah 59:19
- *“When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall raise a standard against him.”*



•DISCIPLINE

- This talks about self-control, and willingness to take instructions. This ranges from
- punctuality to work,
- attitude to work,
- to accountability.
- Keep to the regulation of your work place in the areas of timing, record keeping and what you say.



•FOCUS

- This talks about concentration and objectivity.
- "The light of the body is the eye. If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light." (Mat.6:22)***

HOW

- Set up some goals.
- Then work out a plan based on your goals. This will help you to have focus and direction.



- **DEDICATION:** - Dr. David Oyedepo defines dedication as being "**deadly committed**" to your course.
- When your heart is turned towards your work, your result will be unchallengeable.
- It means to get connected to your job with all pleasure.
- This is the mystery behind distinction at work.



•IMPLICATIONS

- The aggregate of our character defines our culture – Blake's *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*
- Whatever we say we stand for will not count as much as what people see us do.
- Our character plays a critical role in our rating
- To succeed or not please check your character



