

# GROWING IN CHRIST LIKENESS

EPHESIANS 4:14-16



THE WORD  
OF GOD  
IS LIKE  
A SEED.  
PLANT IT  
IN YOUR  
HEART.

1 Peter 1:23

LESSONS 13-16

WEST JACKSONVILLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
CATHEDRAL OF FAITH CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
BISHOP GARY L. HALL, SR.

## LESSON 13

# Self-Control vs. Self-Indulgence

Rejecting wrong desires and doing what is right

### CHARACTER THOUGHT

Avoid unnecessary conflict and loss by resolving emotions and building good habits.

### CHARACTER SCRIPTURE

James 1:12-15 1Corinthians 6:12

### CHARACTER POINTS:

Learning to Say “NO” to Yourself

- **Get a Grip** – Steer your life in the right direction.
- **Follow Rules** – Recognize the standards of good character in every area of life.
- **Set Limits** – Set limits so that even good things do not run to excess.
- **Stay Cool** – Think before you react.

### BALANCE SELF-CONTROL

- **Practice Tolerance** – Everyone is at different character development levels.
- **Exercise Persuasiveness** – Know when and how to address issues.
- **Live with Joyfulness** – Have a good attitude, even facing unpleasant situations.

## **FIVE KEYS TO BUILDING SELF-CONTROL**

- **Look Beyond Today** – Develop a motivation greater than immediate satisfaction by considering how today's choices will affect the future.
- **Guard Your Steps** – Avoid the little compromises that erode your character, recognize your weaknesses and set boundaries for yourself.
- **Restrain Yourself** – Determine beforehand how you should respond.
- **Turn Away** – Avoid becoming connected to those who would steer away your internal restraints.
- **Seek Accountability** – Admit your need for help rather than isolate yourself in a pattern of duplicity and repeated failure.

## **EVALUATE YOUR SELF-CONTROL**

1. When making decisions, do you consider how something will affect you and those around you in the future?
2. Do you cater to your weaknesses or find ways to avoid pitfalls?
3. Do you decide what to do before entering a tough situation?
4. Do you consider how relationships will affect your character?
5. Have you surrounded yourself with those who can make you stronger in your areas of weakness?

## LESSON 14

# Creativity vs. Underachievement

Approaching a need, a task, or an idea from a new perspective

### CHARACTER THOUGHT

Do not let the fear of failure prevent you from finding a better way.

### CHARACTER SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 8:12 “I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions..”

### CHARACTER POINTS

- ◇ **Recipe for Progress** – Discover the key ingredient for tackling daily changes- creativity.
- ◇ **Discern the Principles** – Creativity requires an enlarged perspective- think big!
- ◇ **Seek New Ideas** - Approach the need from as many angles/view points as possible.
- ◇ **Keep Trying** - See the need, identify the facts, recognize the limitations, try, evaluate, and try again.

### BALANCE CREATIVITY

- ◇ **Proceed With Caution** - Know the importance of timing, a cautious person discerns when to push the limits and when to uphold traditions.
- ◇ **Be Dependable** – Fulfill what you consented to do even if it means unexpected sacrifice. As you develop new ideas don't neglect to finish your projects.
- ◇ **Do Justly** - The ability to do something does not justify doing it. Ensure your creative pursuits reflect integrity and consideration for what is appropriate.

## **FIVE KEYS TO BUILDING CREATIVITY**

- ◇ **Hone Your Skills** - Creativity prevents your abilities from stagnating.
- ◇ **Collect Ideas** - Create a habit of examining ideas.
- ◇ **Think Outside the Box** - Recognize possibilities.
- ◇ **Give it a Try** - Pursue it to achieve it.
- ◇ **Try Again** - Examine what worked or did not work, pray, and try again

## **EVALUATE YOUR CREATIVITY**

1. Are you continuously developing your skills?
2. Do you gather good ideas as you come across them?
3. Do you have individuals with whom you can discuss ideas?
4. Have you allowed the fear of failure to prevent you from making improvements?
5. Have you learned from your mistakes and found better ways to try again?

## LESSON 15

### **Discretion vs. Simplemindedness**

Recognizing and avoiding words, actions, and attitudes that could bring undesirable consequences.”

#### **Character Thought**

Do not say or do in private what you would not want to explain in public.

#### **Character Scripture**

Ephesians 5: 15 “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise...”

#### **Character Points**

- ◆ **Live on Purpose** (Make a positive contribution)
- ◆ **Check Your Attitude** (Evaluate your words and actions)
- ◆ **Practice Honesty** (There is a difference between discretion and hypocrisy)
- ◆ **Consider Others** (Clearly express your ideas with precise words)

#### **Balance Discretion**

- ◆ **Go Boldly** (Apply good character instead of feelings or opinions)
- ◆ **Move Decisively** (Recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions)
- ◆ **Proceed Joyfully** (Maintain a good attitude)

## **Five Keys to Building Discretion**

- ◆ **Consider Consequences** (Sowing and Reaping is Real)
- ◆ **Choose Words Carefully** (Once out of your mouth you can't reel them back in)
- ◆ **Practice Good Manners** (In the White House and in the Poor House)
- ◆ **Learn From Mistakes** (Find the lesson in them)
- ◆ **Avoid Trouble** (Friends and entertainment influence perspectives and habits)

## **Evaluate your Discretion**

1. Do you consider how your actions affect others?
2. Do you choose words carefully or expect others to understand?
3. Have you studied the protocol and expectations in each social situation?
4. Do you discern what caused a mistake and take steps to avoid repeating it?
5. Do you avoid trouble when possible?

## LESSON 16

# Resourcefulness vs. Wastefulness

Finding practical uses for that which others would overlook or discard

### Character Thought

Look for potential in the resources around you.

### Character Scripture

Matthew 14:19 “And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.”

### Character Points

- ◆ **Rich and Poor** – Exercise personal stewardship, make the best of what you have
- ◆ **Recognize Resources** - Wealth is not limited to finances
- ◆ **Focus Your Management** - Use what you have to its full potential
- ◆ **Find a Purpose** - Use your resources before you lose the opportunity
- ◆ **Establish Values** - Stay away from greed, selfishness, pride and discontent

### Balance Resourcefulness

- ◆ **Act Wisely** - Seeing and responding to needs
- ◆ **Maintain Order** - Repositioning myself and my surroundings to achieve greater efficiency
- ◆ **Live Generously** - Managing my resources so I can freely give to others



## Five Keys to Building Resourcefulness

- ◆ **Find What You Need** – When you identify a need look for unused resources to meet that need.
- ◆ **Use What You Have** – Put everything to its best use, find ways to use what you have more efficiently.
- ◆ **Improve Resources** – Look for ways to improve resources and develop your skills so that you can take full advantage of opportunities.
- ◆ **Exercise Your Talents** – Put your skills and abilities to use. Whatever you are doing, your mind is one of your greatest assets.
- ◆ **Share With Others** – Declutter your life and transfer unused resources to those who can best use them.

## Resourcefulness at Home

Relationships are among life's greatest resources.

- ◆ **Share Time** - invest time, money, talents, and other resources in relationships with family and friends
- ◆ **Communicate Carefully** – speech and writing are powerful tools. Often the simplest, most direct method speaks the clearest.
- ◆ **Live Respectfully** – when someone gives you something demonstrate your gratefulness in the way you treat the gift.
- ◆ You can love possession, but only people can love you back.

## Evaluate your Resourcefulness

1. Do you see need and address them at minimum expense?
2. Do you look for new ways to use old resources?
3. Have you learned to make what you have useful?
4. How well do you make use of your talents?
5. Do you hoard resources or put them to better use by sharing with others?