

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 29-32

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

Lesson 29

Virtue vs. Impurity

“The moral excellence evident in my life as I consistently do what is right”

Character Thought

Your virtue depends on the values and habits that define how you respond to life.

Character Scripture

2 Peter 1:5-8

Character Points

- Live and Inspire to Live
- Reject the Artificial
- Make Genuine Commitments
- Respond Constructively

Balance Virtue

- Reform Humbly (overcome pride and acknowledge that you have areas that need improvement)
- Motivate Patiently (provide steady moral leadership and allow others the time to personally respond to the challenge)
- Care Gently (Interact amiably with everyone you contact.)

Five Keys to Building Virtue

- Do the Right Thing (uphold what is right regardless of external circumstances)
- Set the Precedent (exercise moral leadership by setting a good example)
- Be Consistent (demonstrate virtue by consistently handling existing circumstances)
- Choose Associations Wisely (seek relationships that strengthen as you seek to exert a positive influence)
- Urge Others to Do Right (develop good character and prepare to help others do right as well)

“I Will” Declarations

- I will do right and encourage others to do the same.
- I will guard my eyes, ears, words, and thoughts.
- I will learn to stand alone.
- I will abstain from anything which might damage or pollute my mind or body.
- I will treat others as I want them to treat me.

Lesson 30

Honor vs. Disrespect

“Respecting others because of the higher authorities they represent”

Character Thought

Communicate respect to everyone you met.

Character Scripture

Romans 12:10

Character Points

- Value the person (each person has essential worth as a human being and should be treated with dignity)
- Honor Authority (the test of honor lies in the respect a person shows for authority)
- Live Honorably (honor requires consistent commitment to do what is right in every situation)

Balance Honor

- Demonstrate Virtue (when you adapt your authority's bad habits, you lose the ability to express honor)
- Cultivate Humility (understand your limitations and seek help where you are lacking)
- Exercise Creativity (carefully consider traditional wisdom as you devise new approaches to accomplish your goals.)

Five Keys To Building Honor

- Look Beyond (respect the person regardless of the disposition)
- Respect Authority (give due respect to your leaders, despite their imperfections)
- Heed the Call (strive to accomplish the underlying goal)
- Remember Your Elders (honor those who have gone before you)
- Value Character (honor others for their character)

Evaluate Your Honor

- Do you value each person or do you see an individual only as a member of a group?
- Do you demonstrate a cooperative attitude?
- Would others say your actions communicate genuine respect?
- Do you communicate appreciation for your predecessors and their accomplishments?
- Do you admire consistent integrity?

Lesson 31

Hospitality vs. Loneliness

“Cheerfully sharing food, shelter, or conversation to benefit others”

Character Thought

Demonstrate care by investing in individual’s lives.

Character Scripture

1Peter 4:9 Romans 12:13

Character Points

- Walls or Bridges? (practice civility and friendship)
- Take Initiative (you cannot express true hospitality without taking a part in other’s lives)
- Decide Carefully (ask “what is best for the person?”)
- Share Alike (express gracefulness for the benefits others bring into your life)

Balance Hospitality

- Plan Decisively (choose carefully whom you bring into your life in person and through entertainment)
- Think Responsibly (responsibility prevents a hospitable person from becoming scattered and ineffective.)
- Practice Thrift (target your generosity to other’s real needs, and secure the most benefit possible for your resources)

Five Keys to Building Hospitality

- Greet Others (acknowledge other’s presence)
- Share Openly (hospitality involves shared resources and experiences)
- Think Ahead (prepare yourself in order to benefit those you will meet every day)
- Invest Freely (sincere gestures depend on whether you see your time and money as a cost or an investment)
- Initiate Friendship (treat others with the respect and care you want to receive)

Evaluate Your Hospitality

- Do you greet others courteously and ask them about themselves?
- Would you share food or time at home with others?
- Do you consider other’s needs and preferences?
- Do you give willingly?
- Have you allowed yourself to become so busy that you overlook others?

Lesson 32

Sensitivity vs. Callousness

“Perceiving the true attitudes and emotions of those around me”

Character Thought

Monitor the feelings and wishes of others so that you can respond appropriately.

Character Scripture

1 Peter 3:8

Character Points

- Try to understand (have the courage to care)
- Look Past the Surface (attitudes can prevent you from seeing beyond the surface)
- Work at it (ask questions to draw others out, and listen closely)
- Enlarge your perspective (another's perspective can help you see realities you overlooked)

Balance Sensitivity

- Go Boldly (without moral direction, sensitivity cannot really help others)
- Discern Carefully (discerning identifies issues instead of reacting to emotions)
- Live Joyfully (do not yield to self-pity or bitterness)

Five Keys To Building Sensitivity

- Observe closely (pay attention to others' posture, tone, expressions, habit changes)
- Listen Carefully (recognize when someone needs a listening ear)
- Try to Understand (put yourself in the shoes of those you need to understand)
- Empathize (you cannot change feelings and attitudes by argumentation)
- Do what you can (find a way to respond to others' hurts or celebrations)

Evaluate Your Sensitivity

- Do you observe others' behavior and discern when something may be wrong?
- Do you try to understand what a person means?
- Do you ask question in order to understand others or to satisfy your curiosity?
- Do you feel others' joy or pain?
- Have you neglected to help when you knew you could have?