

HOUSE OF DAVID WORSHIP CENTER

11739 KINSMAN ROAD, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44120

(216) 246-9000

TIMOTHY L. TYLER, SR. PASTOR



2023 ELEVATE 2.0

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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Why are YOU here?

Pastor Timothy L. Tyler
Friday June 2, 2023

Key Concepts of Character



“We manifest character when self-sacrifice for sake of our principles becomes more important to us than compromise for the sake of popularity.”

-Dr. Myles Munroe



Personal Character Development

Personal Character Development



Like the protagonist in a story, you, too, will experience a “character arc” as you develop and refine your moral standards and principles,

- So that you be transformed **personally and professionally**. In fact, you will progress through many “character arcs” since the process of character development is ongoing.
- A novel or screenplay may cover only a small portion of a protagonist’s life.

The story may take place over

- A matter of days or weeks and that period of the character’s life is all we learn about him or her. However, in “**real life**” the hero would encounter a number of other challenges that would take place after the events of the story ended.

Illustrations of Character



The English word character comes from a Latin word meaning “**mark,**” or **distinctive quality.**”

- As we have seen our character is what marks, defines, and identifies us. And we’ve been asking ourselves,
- **What distinctive qualities identify me?** Are they positive or negative? Genuine character includes the following features: It is (1) **Fixed, or Set,** (2) **Predictable,** and (3) **Stable.**

1. Character Is Fixed, or Set



- Most people are familiar with the saying, “Every man has his price.” This idea implies that every person has a point at which he will compromise his moral standards to gain something else that is a higher priority to him.
- Some of the usual candidates are **money, fame, and power.**
- But if we want to be leaders of character, we have to stop accepting this notion—right now. There’s no “price”
- For a leader of character that will cause him to compromise his standards, because his principles are his life. All leaders of character are therefore “**set in their ways,**” ethically speaking.

There's no “price” for a leader of character that will cause him to compromise his standards.



The fixed quality of character may be illustrated by elements whose intrinsic quality is to be unchanging, or absolute.

For example, the letters of the alphabet within a particular language are fixed. **(Each letter is also called a “character,” in reference to being a “mark.”)**

For instance,

- **A is always A. It will never turn into C.** The same property is true for all of the letters of the alphabet.
- The meanings of the individual letters do not change. **If they were not set,** the system of using them to communicate meaning among people who share a common language would fail. It would lead to mass confusion.

Watch This



Think of 3 things you would like to see God do now.

- When you have it raise your hand.
- Now on the count of 3 we are going to shout it to your neighbor on the left and right of you
- We can all sing together but we can't talk together

Final Illustration



Let's conclude this section by looking at a final illustration.

- Used building material—cement. If cement is wet, it is **malleable**, enabling you to form a specific
- **Shape**—often adding other materials to it first—using a mold. For instance, you might use it to make sections of a concrete sidewalk or concrete building blocks.

Final Illustration



- **Malleable**: Able to be **hammered** or pressed permanently out of shape without breaking or **cracking**.
- What does **Malleability** mean? capability of being shaped or extended
- **Synonyms**: Manageable, Adaptable, Compliant, Impressionable

Final Illustration



However, once cement hardens, or sets, you can't reshape it. If you want to make something different, you need to start with fresh cement.

Leader can handle hot stuff



1. You can put an Egg in hot water it will get hard.
2. You can put Vegetables in hot water they will get soft.
3. You can put Coffee in hot water and it will fill the room with an aroma.



When cement is set—hopefully, as intended—you know that the sidewalk, concrete blocks, or whatever else you have formed will be solid and secure.

Likewise, a person with character is “set” in the sense that he/she cannot be changed from holding to his/her established convictions and standards.



- If you agree to look the other way, your character is not “set.”
- Your values are still malleable. But if you **refuse**, your character is solid and secure.
- That is why we must learn to exercise the kind of personal discipline that will say, “I cannot do this. It’s against my convictions.”

Character Is Predictable



- The Creator, one of which is that He is always “Predictable.”
- To be Predictable is to be Consistently ,Responsible and Trustworthy.
- We can rely on God because He is not one thing one day and another thing the next.

Points of Ponder



- **Would you say that your conduct is predictable or unpredictable?**
- **For example, is your temperament consistent?**
- **Do your family members and coworkers have to walk around on tiptoe when they see you?**
- **Because they don't know how you will react to them on a given day?**



- One biblical writer described Jesus of Nazareth as **“the same yesterday and today and forever.”**
- That is the way our character should be.
- Moreover, when we demonstrate that we are reliable, we give other people a sense of security and well-being.



- A principled leader is predictable to the point that his/her character speaks for them in their absence.
- That is to say, people know him/her so well that they could vouch for what he/she would or would not do in a given situation—and be totally accurate.

How strong is your character?



How strong is your character?

Ask someone in this class you trust to give you an honest assessment of what they think your conduct would be under various scenarios.

Various Scenarios.



1. Are you Trustworthy.. ...in Ministry
2. Can Your Pastor Trust you when he not around?
3. Is your House operating in order?
4. Do you have the heart of the pastor?
5. Do you respect leadership in your church
6. How many time can you remember YOUR defiant moment with your Pastor

Various Scenarios



7. How many times have you thought you could have done better than your Pastor at Pastoring
8. Why is the Pastor dealing with your mess if your a leader called to assist him/her?
9. If you are a leader are you bringing **Problems or Solution?**
10. A Leader should never get on the level of a lay member.



A principled leader is predictable to the point that his character speaks for him/her in their absence.

Character Is Stable



As we noted earlier, one consequence of humanity's loss of true character was instability.

- James said that a double-minded man is unstable in everything that he does. I think James was saying that if a person has a character defect in one area, he will inevitably have character flaws in other areas, as well. And it's hard to trust a person who keeps vacillating.

vacillating: alternate or waver between different opinions or actions; be **indecisive**



Instead, when we walk with integrity, our good character can flow evenly in all areas of our life.

- Jesus of Nazareth told a concise parable describing how the nature of the Creator is meant to fill us.
- He said that the kingdom of God is “like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.” **Character must “work its way” through every part of us**, so that we can consistently manifest it to others.



**A true leader is able to take criticism
and mistreatment and still retain his/her
character.**

Character Means...



**1. Character Means Having a Commitment
to a Set of Values Without Compromise**



1. Leaders of principle do not relinquish their values in the face of pressure to disregard their beliefs. Because their values are based on their convictions, they are willing to lose money, promotion, and other advantages for the sake of their values.
2. Unfortunately, many leaders today are experts in compromise. They change their values based on what they think other people want them to do, not what they genuinely believe is right.

2. Character Means Being Dedicated to a Set of Standards Without Wavering



Earlier, we examined the process through which our moral standards are derived from our values.

- We should compromise neither our values nor our standards. When a principled leader establishes moral parameters for his life, he doesn't waiver in his dedication to them. He does not violate them for anyone or anything.
- As someone who has lived under the constant pressure of public scrutiny, let me tell you that **no one else will set moral standards for you. You must set your own.** And then you must be fixed and stable in relation to them.



Let me suggest a few additional examples of specific moral standards that a leader might set:

- **“I will not lie in order to get a promotion or increase my profits”**
- **“I will treat my employees justly by giving them fair wages and ensuring the safety of their work environment”;**
- **“I will uphold the value of every human life.”**

3. Character Means Making a Continual Effort to Integrate Your **Thoughts, Words, and Actions**



- The words **integrate** and **integrity** are both derived from the Latin word integer, meaning “whole” and “entire.” Thus, one definition of integrate is “to form, coordinate, or blend into a functioning or unified whole.” **Having character means making a continual effort to integrate your thoughts, words, and actions**, so that you are “one.” A leader should be able to declare, “**What I say, what I do, and who I am are the same.**”

Achieving such consistency takes daily discipline.

Integrity Means Having One Face—Not Two or More



If we are to be principled leaders, our private life and our public life must be ethically “one.” This means we must be honest when no one else is watching us. When we say something in public, We must still mean what we said when we are in private.



A person with integrity is the same person all the time, night or day, hot or cold, in good times and in bad. He believes what he says, and he says what he believes. He says what he does, and he does what he says. There is no dichotomy.

Dichotomy: a division or contrast between two things that are or are represented as being opposed or entirely different



**When we lack integrity, we are
disingenuous, or “two-faced.”**





- ❑ Interestingly, the word the Greeks used for this person was **hypokrites**, from which we get the English word **hypocrite**.
- ❑ Similarly, the word hypocrisy comes from the Greek word hypokrisis, meaning “**acting on the stage, pretense,**” from hypokrinesthai, meaning “play a part, pretend.”
- ❑ Its original form, “hypocrite” was not a negative term; it merely referred to the actors who wore masks on the stage while playing multiple parts. **However, the term evolved into the idea of a person of “many faces”—someone whose real identity was not what it appeared to be.**

Who is the real Character



Who is the real Character



Who's Who



- **What Character is showing up at Church ?**
- **Who is the Character at Home ?**
- **It's not real clear what Character we see on Facebook.**
- **What Character is on the Job?**
- **What Character shows up at your child school?**
- **What Character are you in while your with your spouse?**



Jesus of Nazareth referred to a number of the religious leaders and practitioners of His day as “hypocrites.”

- **For example, He said, “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full”; and “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.”**

In other words, He was saying, “You are actors! You wear a mask to hide who you really are. You keep changing your ‘face.’” They were not “integrated” because they lacked true character.



We must ask ourselves, **“Am I manifesting who I really am in my interactions with others?”**

- That can be a tough question to ask yourself—and to answer—but it is a necessary one. We have to start taking off our masks, so that who we really are can be seen. Then, we must work to develop our character, so that other people will be able to fully trust what we say and do.



It is wearying to pretend to be someone you're not. It's as if you have more than one person living inside of you, working at cross-purposes.

- Regarding **character** versus **reputation**.
Character is who you are—reputation is the mask.



The problem with having a conversation with a hypocrite is that you're not sure exactly who you're speaking with at any given time. Today, many people—especially younger people—say, “Everybody is a hypocrite.”

They have observed too many leaders say one thing but do another. Or, they have seen leaders act in ways contrary to what they've been told constitutes good character.



They don't believe what the leaders tell them has any real value. As a result, many of them think, I'll behave any way I want to, because standards don't seem to matter. Look at how that politician lied.

Look at what that businessman stole. They start pointing at people who have violated values and moral standards.



- Be careful Preacher / Deacons/ Mothers -
You can't lead people you secretly dislike
- When A Leader says I can't work with certain people your Character and Integrity is in question.
- You just adopted your own will ... and not the will of the Father. (not my will but his will be done)



- In contrast, when a leader's private life and his/her public life are consistent, he/she will demonstrate integrity to those around him/her.
- True character does not change with the tides; it is not altered according to the latest opinion poll. It is consistently "one."

Things that make you go hmmm!!



The problem with having a conversation with a hypocrite is that you're not sure exactly who you're speaking with at any given time.

4. Character Means Making Sacrifices in Support of Your Principles



A principled leader possesses beliefs so strong that he is willing to sacrifice for them—to experience the loss of popularity, friendships, colleagues, financial gain, and success for their sake. Such a quality must be reintroduced to society by leaders of genuine principle.



Gandhi made some major sacrifices for his vision.

For instance, he went on several hunger strikes, one of which drew attention to the unjust treatment of India's poorest classes in the caste system, the "untouchables."

People will continue to remember Gandhi for generations because of his willingness to sacrifice for what he believed in.

5. Imposing Self-Discipline in Keeping with Your Values and Moral Standards



In conjunction with making sacrifices, a leader must impose daily discipline upon himself, so that he/she will remain aligned with his convictions and continue to adhere to his principles.



Perhaps, before you picked up this book, you felt like giving up your values and standards because you found yourself in the midst of a difficult circumstance. It could be that, because you had made a commitment to your principles, you disciplined yourself to stick with them, and affirmed, **“I will continue to cultivate myself as a person and as a leader.”** If that has been your situation, I commend you for your **discipline and urge you to keep holding on to your convictions. Your leadership is needed in our world!**

The Manifestation of Character



- ❖ When our values, principles, morals, and standards are tested.
- ❖ When we persevere under the pressures of life.
- ❖ When self-sacrifice for the sake of our principles becomes more important to us than compromise for the sake of popularity.



- ❖ Is your character fixed, set, predictable, and stable? Where will you be in **five, ten, twenty, or thirty years?**
- ❖ Will you continue to follow moral standards, or will you have sacrificed them on the altar of compromise?
- ❖ Will you still hold to the same convictions, or will you have abandoned them for temporary pleasure?

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