

Character Matters

9/8/2024

Kevin Winn

Description

Paul addresses the qualification for leaders within the church. Gifting is important, but it's not what matters most. God uses men and women who reflect Him, and since this is true, character matters.

Sermon Notes

*1 Timothy 3:1-7 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. **2** Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full[a] respect. **5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) **6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **7** He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

- The health of the home & church rises and falls with leadership.
- As we grow in our relationship with Christ, our character grows.

*Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, **24** but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."*

- Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit that allows us the ability to exercise restraint and moderation in the circumstances of life.

Proverbs 25:28 (ESV) "A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls."

- If we aim to live a respectable life, we must be people of integrity.
- If we struggle with a love for money & being greedy, victory over this sin only comes through practicing generosity.
- The lessons we fail to learn can be dangerous if we experience elevation without character development.

*1 Timothy 3:8-16 In the same way, deacons[b] are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. **9** They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. **10** They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. **11** In the same way, the women[c] are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. **12** A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. **13** Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. **14** Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, **15** if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to*

conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. **16** Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit,[d] was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

- Call **321.574.6970** if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.