

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

August 7, 2016 – Character

Accomplishments take priority over character

Character: the will to do what God says is right, no matter what the cost.

Two things you have to agree to:

1. There is a standard of right and wrong outside of us. 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
2. We have to develop the will to follow the standard

Lack of character will always show up in your relationships

Illus: Car with no oil – parts are made for each other will eventually destroy each other.

Character is the oil of relationships

Marriage - two people made for each other minus character equals destroyed relationship.

Companies - owner without character will trickle down to everyone

Churches – pastor without character will eventually destroy the church

Proverbs 11:1-3 1 The LORD abhors (abhors – gut wrenching hatred) **dishonest scales,** (rock on one side that is always the same weight silver on the other side)

We like dishonesty when it benefits us...God can't stand it when someone acts dishonest towards someone else.

But accurate weights are his delight. (Do you have someone that your face lights up when you see them?) This verse says that God gets excited when he sees the man or woman of character who even if they can get away with it, they do what is right.

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Everybody wants to be wise ... relationships, finances – we all want to make wise choices

Humility – focusing on who God is and who I am, related to God

3 The integrity of the upright guides them; the number one question I get is how do I know what God wants me to do. Focus on your character and God

will guide you in the right direction. Men and women of character don't struggle to make a decision.

But the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

How does the Bible say we develop character...

Romans 8:29 For Those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His son

Jesus is the model for us. God's plan for your life is that you would be like Jesus.

This creates a problem for us. I can be a better Steve but if the standard is to be like Jesus, that leads to frustration.

We say, especially men – that's just how I am. I was like that when you married me and you just have to accept me like I am.

The problem is we don't allow that in other people.

Kids – I'm just a food thrower, so you have to accept me like I am...

Friends – I'm just a thief. I steal things, so just accept it.

Spouse – I'm just a spender. I spend so you just need to make more money.

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; (fruit, is all the things you love to see in other people – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) apart from me you can do nothing.

Remain – Greek word “meno” – abide, remain, stay, wait, vacation

Verse 1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener, 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes (lifts up) so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean (pruned) because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself, it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Think and act relationally, not religiously

Relationship is just stay close.

Prayer: God, help me to stay connected to you so I'll have the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do what is right.

Start praying this prayer and you will see God show up in areas of your life you never even thought about before...

Colossians 1:27 To them, God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.