

CHARACTER COUNTS!

“an indepth Bible Study on the twenty character qualities described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-8



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CHARACTER COUNTS STUDY GUIDE

- READ
- STUDY
- APPLY

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RELATIONSHIPS (CONTINUED)		
<p>An independent, undisciplined person who refused to be subject to any authority other than his own</p> <p>A self-centered, headstrong, stubborn person who intends to please himself regardless of intent of revenge</p> <p>One who gets angry and nurses it with the intent of revenge</p>	<p>“not under order”</p> <p>“not a self-pleaser”</p> <p>“wrathful”</p>	<p>Not accused of rebellion (Titus 1:6)</p> <p>Not self-willed (Titus 1:7; 2 Peter 2:10)</p> <p>Not quick-tempered (Titus 1:7)</p>
MATURITY		
<p>One who is fair in business and gives what is due to God and man</p> <p>One who is set apart from all forms of wickedness – especially in his thought life</p> <p>One who loves things that produce good</p> <p>One who is a babe in Christ and thus lacking spiritual maturity necessary for leadership</p>	<p>Used of a just measure of rule</p> <p>“holy”</p> <p>“constant tender affection toward things beneficial in their effect”</p> <p>“newly planted”</p>	<p>Just (Titus 1:8)</p> <p>Devout (Titus 1:8)</p> <p>Love what is good (Titus 1:8)</p> <p>Not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6; 1 Tim. 5:22; 1 Tim. 3:10)</p>

INTRODUCTION

This study guide is the result of working with a 33 year-old man who had recently become a Christian and wanted to develop his character. He is facing his fourth divorce. The changes in my life, and his, have been so profound that I decided to use these character qualities as a basis for my ministry with other men. They are designed for two or more people who want to work together and develop the kind of character that God requires of all His people. The twenty character qualities are taken from 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-8. The steps for working through this study are as follows:

READ:

A brief yet precise definition of the character quality appealing to the original Greek is given.

STUDY:

A self-study guide of a biblical character or biblical passages that relate to the particular character quality

APPLY:

Projects to choose from that will help you make the character quality a part of your life. There are usually a number of projects to choose from; therefore, it is recommended that you go through the study several times choosing different projects each time, or making up your own.

These character qualities should be seen as goals for every child of God. It is important that you depend on the Holy Spirit for your power as you proceed with this project. Before you begin, read Romans 6-8, Ephesians 5, and Colossians 3. State specific principles from each passage to use as reminders and guidelines as you go through this study. Review these passages and principles frequently as you complete this study.

TONGUE	
Not double tongued (1 Tim. 3:8)	“to speak twice”
Not a slanderer or malicious gossip (1 Tim. 3:11; Titus 2:3)	“to hurt through”
HEART	
Free from the love of money (1 Tim. 3:3; Hebrews 13:5)	“not cherish money”
Not found of sordid gain (1 Tim. 3:8; 1 Peter 5:2; Titus 1:7)	“not a filthy profiteer”
RELATIONSHIPS	
Not pugnacious (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)	“Not a striker”
Gentle (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 3:2, Phil. 4:5)	A person who is reasonable, yielding and flexible
Not contentious (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 3:2)	A peaceable person who is not inclined to fight

Character Counts!

“ABOVE REPROACH”

1 Timothy 3:2; 5:7; 6:14; Titus 1:6-7

This phrase comes from the Greek word *“anepileptos”* which means “not to lay hold of.” It was used of one who in wrestling gives his adversary no hold on him. It is one against whom it is impossible to bring any charge of wrong doing such as could stand impartial examination. Another word for this character quality is irreproachable or unrebukeable. This is the kind of person that lives such a holy life that all who know him could not find one “handle” or “flaw” so as to lay hold of him and find fault. This is the goal of every Christian. It is the summary character quality, all others listed here follow or elaborate on this one. A person who is above reproach is self-possessed, or self-controlled.

Bible Study

Daniel 6

1. List all the character qualities seen in Daniel.
2. What two verses best define what it means to be above reproach?
3. What was Daniel's concept of God?
4. What was the impact of Daniel's character upon King Darius and the nation?
5. What were the character qualities of the men who opposed Daniel?
6. What resulted in their lives?
7. Why did God allow Daniel to be promoted in the kingdom? (*Romans 13:1-2; Daniel 6:3, 25-27*)
8. Compare the wages of obedience with the wages of disobedience. (*Psalms 1:1-3; Daniel 6:19-27; Deuteronomy 11:26-27; Psalms 1:4-6; Romans 6:23; Deuteronomy 11:8; Daniel 6:24*).

FAMILY	
<p>One who serves others with joy by sharing his home with them</p> <p>Man that stands before his family as an example and to give direction</p> <p>A godly man that has eyes and love for only one woman – his wife</p>	<p>A “lover of strangers” our word hospital</p> <p>“to stand before” family</p> <p>“a one woman kind of man” or “a man of one woman”</p>
WORD OF GOD	
<p>Ability and willingness to communicate the word of God in a non-threatening and objective manner</p> <p>One who knows sound doctrine and holds tightly to it by life and lip</p> <p>A man who can clearly defend the faith in a bold and wise manner</p>	<p>Hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 4:9; Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2)</p> <p>One who manages his own household well (1 Tim. 3:4, 12; Titus 1:6)</p> <p>The husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)</p>
MIND	
<p>One who brings every thought captive to the obedience of Christ – he evaluates all in light of God's Word</p>	<p>Sensible (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; 2:2, 5)</p> <p>“To save the mind”</p>

CORRECTING OUR CHARACTER
 The following character qualities are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. These are to be manifested in any individual who would seek to be a leader in the local church. A careful study of the New Testament reveals that most of them should also be manifested in every mature believer. The following are given for your edification as a reminder of what God expects us to become. They should be viewed as goals. Memorize 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. Use this as a study guide.

GENERAL CHARACTER	LITERAL MEANING	PRACTICAL DEFINITION
Above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2, 5:7; 6:14; Titus 1:6-7)	"not lay hold of" wrestling term	A godly person who has no "handles" of sin that an adversary can lay hold of
Self control (Titus 1:8; 1 Cor. 7:9; 9:25; Gal. 5:23; 2 Peter 1:6)	"in strength," to have power over or a firm hold on	One who has mastered himself
Temperate (1 Tim. 3:2, 11; Titus 2:2)	"Have no wine," free from wine in heathen sacrifices	One who is properly oriented, clear thinking, calm, cool and collected
Not given to wine (1 Tim. 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7)	"not sit long at wine"	One who refuses to be devoted to or attracted with drink
Not accused of dissipation (Titus 1:6)	"Not accused of excess"	One who cannot be accused of excess in any area
Dignified (1 Tim. 3:8, 11; Titus 2:2, 7)	Holy, solemn, stately	One who lives up to his rank - a Christian due honor due to godliness
Respectable (1 Tim. 3:2)	"well-ordered or well arranged"	One who has his life ordered or lined up under God's Word
Faithful in all things (1 Tim. 3:11)		One who fulfills his God-given responsibilities he can be depended upon
Good reputation with those outside the church (1 Tim. 3:7)	Reputation - used of a judge's evaluation - good-beautiful to behold	One whom the world can examine and find "beautiful" in all areas of life

PROJECTS

1. List all of the things that you think would describe a person who is above reproach. Memorize Matthew 5:6; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9. Set at least one specific goal that would allow you to apply these concepts during the next month.
2. At the end of each day this week write down all the positive and negative responses you have made toward people. Confess the negative (1 John 1:9) and set specific goals to improve them next week.
3. Discuss your reputation with your spouse/trusted friend in all the major areas of our life, spend 30 minutes in prayer together, and set specific goals to improve your reputation.
4. Evaluate your reputation both outside and inside the family. Note the positives and negatives. Set specific goals to improve your reputation in each area.

“THE HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE”

1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6

A literal translation of this phrase is “*a man of one woman.*” This is a character quality and means that the Christian man is to be “a one woman kind of man.” This is a quality guideline that eliminates those who would seek to meet just some external rules. The order in the list of character qualities should be noted. A man’s home should always take first place over his ministry. “A one woman kind of man” is one that is continually building a deep, satisfying relationship with his wife that will counteract external temptations he may face. The habit of his life and the way of thinking is key here. He has eyes for only one woman – his wife.

Bible Study

Matthew 5:27-28 – Write the meaning of these verses.
Study the following characters in light of these verses.

Joseph: Genesis 39

1. Describe Joseph’s character. What was his view of God and the marriage relationship? (vs. 8, 9)
2. Why did God honor him? How did he overcome his temptation?
3. Describe his temptation? How would you respond?

David: 2 Samuel 11

1. Trace the stages of David’s temptation (*1 John 2:16; James 1:13-15*)
2. How could he have avoided his temptation? Should he have been at war? (v. 1)
3. Name the people active in David’s sin. What were the results of his sin? (*2 Samuel 12:9-12, 15, 19*)
4. Read David’s prayer of confession in Psalm 51.
5. What principle is taught throughout 2 Samuel 11?

PROJECTS

Review all of the character qualities in this study guide and rate yourself from 1 to 10 in each (10 is perfect). The areas that have the lowest numbers should be focused on. Set up personal and specific projects to help you improve in the weak areas. Go through the study guide again using the projects you missed the first time. Are you depending on God to change you or are you depending on your own efforts?

Memorize John 15:5.

“NOT A NEW CONVERT”*1 Timothy 3:6*

The Greek word here is “neophutos” from which we get our English word neophyte. It literally means newly planted. In the Christian context it refers to a new convert. This is one who lacks experience in Christian doctrine, life, and leadership. The Greek word comes from two Greek words, “neos” meaning new, and “phuo” meaning to bring forth or produce. The warning in this verse should be noted, “lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.” The Greek word conceited is “tupos” and refers to smoke or vapor. It is the conceit that blinds a man’s mind and therefore his judgment that the devil incurred when he fell because of pride (*Isaiah 14:12-14*). Proverbs 16:18 relates to this concept clearly. The new convert has not had the time to develop the marks of maturity already studied.

Bible Study

There are four kinds of peoples in the world from God’s point of view. Study the following and find out which one you are. Use the New American Standard translation.

1. The Natural Man (*1 Corinthians 2:14*)
 - a. What characterizes his life and way of thinking?
 - b. Note the terms “he does not” and “he cannot.”
2. The Spiritual Man (*1 Corinthians 2:15-16*)
 - a. What does the “all things” refer to (*vs. 9, 10, 11*)
 - b. What does it mean to have the mind of Christ (*Hebrews 5:14*)?
3. The Babe in Christ (*1 Corinthians 3:1-2a*)
 - a. What is his spiritual diet? Why?
 - b. Why could he not be a spiritual leader?
4. The Willfully Carnal Man (*1 Corinthians 3:2b-4*)
 - a. What is his spiritual diet? Why?
 - b. What sins are in his life? Why?

PROJECTS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 with your spouse/trusted friend. Discuss the meaning, the sexual differences between men and women, and ways to better meet the needs of others.
2. Study this character quality with your spouse/trusted friend and discuss it together.
3. Memorize Matthew 5:27-28 and evaluate yourself for one week in light of the truth taught here. Set specific and biblical goals to become above reproach in this area.
4. List three of your greatest weaknesses in this area and set specific goals to improve them during the next week.

“TEMPERATE”

1 Timothy 3:2, 11; Titus 2:2

The Greek word for this quality is **“nephalos.”** It was used to describe things that are free from wine. It was also used to describe one who was temperate or moderate in the use of wine. This is one who does not lose his psychological or spiritual orientation. He is “calm, cool, and collect.” The temperate person is one who does not lose perspective because of false security. He/She has a correct view of the temporariness of this life. (1 Thess. 5:6; 1 John 2:16-18). He/She is calm, dispassionate, and circumspect.

Bible Study

Job 1

1. What was God’s view of Job? What kind of man was he socially, spiritually, intellectually, and physically?
2. What is the significance of Job 1:5? Was Job saved?
3. What was Satan’s argument with God? Why did God allow him to work?
4. How did Job view his material possessions? How did he respond to tragedy? How did God honor his obedience? (Job 42:10-17)
5. What was Job’s view of God? How did this affect his view of natural possessions?

PROJECTS

1. Read the following verses dealing with holiness. Memorize at least five of them. List the ones that you need to give special attention to. Ask your spouse or a trusted friend to help you find them. Translate each exhortation into a personal goal in your life. Share these verses with your family or friends:
 Ephesians 4:25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 32;
 Ephesians 5:3, 4, 8-9, 11, 15-17, 18, 21, 22, 25
 Ephesians 6:1, 4, 5, 9.

“DEVOUT”

Titus 1:8

The Greek word here is “hosis” and describes one who is holy and pious. He is one who honors God. He reverences the fundamental decencies of life behind any man-made law or regulation. He is pleasing to God. He is undefiled by sin and is free from all forms of wickedness. This is his lifestyle—this individual is one who is set apart by God.

Bible Study

1 Kings 18

Elijah was sent to do away with the awful worship of Baal during the reign of Ahab who married the wicked heathen princess, Jezebel. He came from the desert and stood before the king and said, “as the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew, nor rain these years, except by my word.”

1. How long was the rain stopped on earth (v. 1)?
2. Describe the godly character of Obadiah.
3. Why is verse 22 the key verse in this chapter?
Describe the story here in verses 20-40. What lessons does it teach about witnessing, faith, false religion, and compromise?
4. Describe the story of verses 41-46. Was Elijah a man of prayer and faith? What lessons do you learn here?

PROJECTS

1. List three material things you value the most and state biblical ways to turn them over to God. (Remember who owns them). Read Matthew 6 and apply the truth taught there.
2. Memorize Matthew 6:33 and state five ways to apply the truth taught there within the next two weeks.
3. Study Matthew 6 and discuss it with your spouse/trusted friend or family member. Develop five ways to apply the truth taught here.
4. Name several areas where you are not “calm, cool, and collect.” Discuss these with your spouse/trusted friend. Decide what the Bible says about developing temperance in these areas.

“PRUDENT”

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 2:2

The Greek word for this quality is “*sophron*” which means one who saves the mind. It is descriptive of one who has a way of thinking in the world that saves the evil from coming to be. A prudent person carefully guards their thoughts and has a balanced view of themselves in the light of God’s Word. One who is sober minded, serious, and earnest is prudent. They have a spirit that shuns evil even when nobody would know about it. They have a proper view of the grace of God and know that they are help- less apart from God. They are wise and balanced in their judgments and have a proper self image. They lack a false pride and have a good prayer life. Hebrews 5:14 is descriptive: “because of practice he has his senses trained to discern good and evil.”

Bible Study

2.Chronicles 20: Jeoshaphat

1. Describe the impossible situation this great king faced.
2. How did he view himself? Was this proper or im proper.
3. Describe his thinking about God.
4. What was his prayer based upon?
5. How did he demonstrate leadership? Were his judgments wise? Why or why not?
6. What were the results of his actions?

1.Kings 3: Solomon

1. Why was God pleased with Solomon’s prayer?
2. What was his attitude toward God?
3. How did this shape his self-image?
4. What verse best describes the quality of prudence?
5. How was the prudence of Solomon demonstrated?
6. What were the results of his prayer and sound judgment?

PROJECTS

Review all your work on the previous projects. How well have you done in the area of application? Have you really given your time and attention to them? If you have neglected previous projects, go back and finish them. This will lead to developing a just character.

Memorize Proverbs 1:1-6 and make three specific applications that will help you become a just individual. Share this with your family or trusted friend and have them apply the same truth.

“JUST”

Titus 1:8

The Greek word for this quality is “dikaiois” which was used in reference to a just measure or just rule. It described one who was fair in business. One who gives what is due to man and God is a just man. He conforms to the laws of God and man and lives in accordance with them. His way of thinking, feeling, and acting is in accord with the will of God. This is a man who lives a practical righteousness. A just man is wise and discerning. He is able to make mature judgments in his relationships with others. He is a man of wisdom and understanding.

Bible Study

New Testament Illustrations

1. Matthew 1:19: Read the account of Joseph and find all the signs of his living as a just man.
2. Mark 6:20: Note who made this statement. Read the account of John the Baptist in the Gospels and find out why he was called a just man.
(*Matthew 11, 14; Mark 1, 6; Luke 1, 3; John 1, 3*)
3. Acts 10:22: Read the account of Cornelius.
Why was he called a just man?

Old Testament Illustration—Solomon

1. 1 Kings 3:5-9: Compare this passage with Hebrews 5:11-14. What are the contrasts?
What is alike? What brings about justice in a man?

PROJECTS

1. Study Psalm 139 and memorize verses 1 - 6. How can you apply this truth to your role as spouse/parent/trusted friend? Share this with someone.
2. Describe the hardest situation you presently face. What are your thoughts about God in this situation? What truth can you apply from 2 Chronicles 20 to this situation?
3. Read Hebrews 5:11-14. What three things (from this passage) lead to spiritual growth? Describe verse 14 in your own words.
4. Read Isaiah 40:12-31. What does this tell you about God? Compare yourself to these things. How does this help the self-image? Memorize Ephesians 2:10.

“RESPECTABLE”

1 Timothy 3:2, 2:9

The Greek word for this quality of “*kosmios*.” It is that which is orderly or well-arranged. It describes a person who is dignified, virtuous and generally well-behaved in all areas of life. A respectable person lives an orderly and well-arranged life and is non-argumentative in their relationships with people. Their life-style adorns the teaching of the Bible. They are ordered and proper in all areas of their life. Their life is continually lived on biblical principles; therefore, they reflect God’s righteous and orderly nature.

Bible Study

Nehemiah 1-2

1. Chapter 1: What indication is there that Nehemiah was a man of compassion? Did Nehemiah see God as Holy and Just?
2. Chapter 2: How did he demonstrate faith in God? What does verse 4 tell you about him? How did he demonstrate boldness?
3. Chapter 2: What was his request to the king? What was his great desire? What does verse 8 tell you about him?
4. After Nehemiah surveyed the walls, what was his challenge to the people? How did he respond to opposition? How did the people respond to him? Why? Where did he get his strength?
5. How did he demonstrate a respectable character?

PROJECTS

1. Memorize Galatians 6:10 and Ephesians 4:29. Write two specific ways to apply each this week with a trusted friend or your family.
2. Read the following verses and evaluate your general attitude and lifestyle in light of these and in areas of weakness write specific applications to apply this week:

Titus 3:1, 2

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

James 3:13-17

1 Peter 3:8, 9, 11

Romans 12:1-2

“LOVE WHAT IS GOOD”

Titus 1:8

This Greek word is a compound word made up of lover, “phileo,” and good, “agathos.” They are an unselfish lover of good actions, people, and things. He is a lover of virtue. The Greek word for good, “agathos,” is that which is beneficial in its effect. The word for love, “phileo,” is tender affection characterized by constancy. It is the love whose inclinations are prompted by sense and emotion. This is an individual who first of all loves God and day by day walks with Him. They have more than just good thoughts but thoughts that are carried out in actions.

Bible Study

1 Chronicles 17 – David

1. What was David's desire? What does that desire reveal about his character? Was his desire ever fulfilled?
2. Compare Nathan's human viewpoint to God's (verses 2-4).
3. What his attitude toward God? What is the Davidic Covenant?
4. There is prophecy in verses 11-14. It is first fulfilled in Solomon (1 Kings 8:19-20) and will be fulfilled in whom (verses 16-17)?
5. What was David's prayer (verses 16-27)?
6. Compare this chapter to 2 Samuel 7; they are parallel accounts.
List all the “good things” David desired in this chapter and 1 Chronicles 17.

PROJECTS

1. Consider the following scriptural admonitions. Are they true in your life?
 - ◆ Set specific goals in each area to improve them.
 - ◆ Don't just pray. Put your prayer into action and break bad habits.
 - a. Business – 1 Thess. 4:10-12; Col. 3:23, 24; 1 Timothy 6:2
 - b. Social – 1 Cor. 10:31-33; Col. 4:5 – 6; 1 Peter 2:12; 2:13-15
 - c. Church – Phil. 1:27; Rom. 14:19; Phil. 2:3-4; Titus 2:1; Heb. 10:25.
2. Are you reflecting God's character in your external appearance, clothes, house, speech, and general lifestyle? Evaluate yourself in each of these area. Set specific goals in each area. Keep records of your progress.

“HOSPITABLE”

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 4:9

The Greek word for hospitable is “*philo xenos*” and literally means one who is a “lover of strangers.” They are generous to guests and fond of offering hospitality. The hospitable person will gladly receive saints into their home. They can establish good relationships with people. One mark of Christian maturity is how a person uses their home. They should instill this same quality into their family. It is the mark of a mature Christian family and church. They are open to unscheduled opportunities to offer hospitality. The following verses speak of this quality: Lev. 19:33, 34; Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9; Gal. 5:14; James 2:6-9.

Bible Study

Old Testament Illustration: Genesis 18:1-16

1. List the actions of Abraham. What do they reveal about him?
2. How was his family active in hospitality? Was he acting as the head of the home?
3. List all the ways he showed hospitality from the beginning to the end of this passage. What did he gain from it?

New Testament Illustration: The Early Church

Read the following verses and derive practical principles for practicing Christian hospitality: Acts 2:46; 4:32-37; 9:43; 10:23-24; 12:12; 16:15,34, 21:8; 28:30-31; 1 Cor. 16:19; Rom. 16:3-5a; Col. 4:15.

PROJECTS

1. Memorize the following passages and evaluate yourself in light of them:

Philippians 2:14-16

1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12

Colossians 4:5-6

1 Corinthians 10:31-33

Ephesians 6:5-9

1 Peter 2:12

State in specific terms your goals to improve in each area. Share them with your family or trusted friend, have them apply the truth, and then evaluate your own life as an example to them.

2. Read 1 Samuel 1-8 with a friend or your family. Note Samuel’s reputation, character, attitude towards God, family life, and ministry. Find specific principles from this passage that you can apply this week. Be specific. Share the results of your application a week later.

“GOOD REPUTATION WITH THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH”

1 Timothy 3:7

The term “good reputation” is very convicting when studied in the Greek. The term for reputation—“marruria” - is used of evaluating one’s character before a judge in a legal sense. It is a judgment on religion or moral matters passed by one person on another. It is an individual’s testimony or witness to the world. The term for good—“kalos” - was used by the Greeks to describe a form that was beautiful to look at. It is the kind of goodness that is at once seen to be good. It is intrinsically good or good that has self-evidencing power. It is contrasted with another Greek word for good “agathos” - which is good in its effects. A good reputation is necessary for all believers according to 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12; Colossians 4:5, 6; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; 1 Peter 2:12. This good reputation is used in a positive (Matthew 5:11; Luke 6:22; 1 Peter 4:14; 2 Timothy 3:12) and negative way (1 Timothy 6:9; 1 Peter 4:15-16; 2 Corinthians 2:7).

Bible Study

Timothy—Acts 16:1-2

1. Describe Timothy’s character.
2. Why did Paul choose him?
3. How did his family background influence him?
(2 Timothy 2:5)

Stephen—Acts 6-7

1. What was the problem the early church was facing here? How was it solved?
2. What were the qualifications of the men selected?
3. What character qualities do you see in Stephen’s life?
4. Did he have a good reputation with unbelievers?
5. What is the significance of 7:55-56? Compare this to Hebrews 9:12.
6. What did his reputation cost him? Why?

PROJECTS

1. Decide on at least five specific ways to show hospitality to Christians and non-Christians. Set up your own personal hospitality goals.
2. Study the New Testament passages above and decide how you can apply one of the principles found there during the next month. Set hospitality goals for each month of the year – be specific.

“ABLE TO TEACH”

1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 2:24

The Greek word used here is “**didaktikos**” and is not referring to the gift of teaching but to a character quality. It was used for a school master and one who was active in an apprenticeship. It is one who has the ability and the willingness to teach. This is a quality every mature man and woman of God should develop. One who is able to teach has the ability to communicate with others in a non-threatening, objective manner. It is the character of one who is sensitive to people and not in bondage to themselves. They are secure and in control of their personality and have certain convictions regarding the Word of God. They understand and are able to use the Word. They have the spiritual and emotional maturity to handle themselves in threatening situations.

Bible Study

Ezra 7

1. What three things did Ezra set in his heart to do? How did King Artaxerxes describe Ezra?
2. What kind of impact did Ezra’s love for God’s Word have on King Artaxerxes?
3. How did God meet all the needs of the Jews that went back to rebuild the Temple? What was Ezra’s prayer?
4. How many times did the King mention God, the Word, or the House of God? What does this tell you about Ezra’s ministry? What was the requirement for being a judge or magistrate in Jerusalem? Who set up this standard?

Proverbs 8

1. What evidence is there that wisdom is available to all men?
2. Define the character of wisdom. What is the value of wisdom and the result in one’s life?
3. How does one obtain wisdom?
4. What is the exhortation in verses 32-36?

PROJECTS

1. Memorize Ephesians 5:25; 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 6:4; and Philippians 2:5-8. State in your own words the principles taught here. Met with your wife and family and share them. Write out together at least two specific goals for each of these principles and state how you can apply them as a family.

“ONE WHO MANAGES HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD WELL”

1 Timothy 3:4, 12; Titus 1:6

The Greek word for manage is “proistemi” and literally means to “stand before.” It puts an emphasis on the man being the head of the family. It means to put before, set over, rule, govern, or reside. It was used of one who presided over meetings or of superintendents of guilds. It was used of one who managed some matters of business. It had implications of industry, care and diligence. The character quality listed here is most important because it is the most significant mark of maturity in a man of God. A man may fool everyone else but he usually cannot fool his family. This is the test of whether a man has all the other qualities listed or not—is he mature enough to lead other Christians? Paul is not saying here you must be married—he was not nor was Timothy. He is saying that if you are married, this should be true of you. The term for children here is “off-spring” and the context supports the idea of older children. This is the same term used in 1 Timothy 5:4. This is not to say that his family is to be perfect but this character quality is there over the test of time and is part of the family pattern or life-style.

Bible Study

1 Samuel 2:12

1. What was the nature of the sons of Eli? Who was Eli?
2. What was the sin of Eli’s sons?
(*Proverbs 10:17; 12:1, 13, 18; 15:5; 29:1*).
3. What was Eli’s sin? (*Proverbs 3:12; 13:24; 15:10; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17*)
3. Where did Eli fail as a father? What did God say his sin was (2:19; 3:13)? What did this sin cost him?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

1. What is the significance of verses 4-6?
2. How are the parents to teach the children?
Write out vs. 7-9 in your own words.
3. Is the teaching of the parents in the home a reflection of their love for God?
4. Is the emphasis of teaching in this chapter by example or “by the book?”
5. What are you doing to apply these principles in your own home?

PROJECTS

1. Set aside at least 30 minutes each day in the study of God’s Word. Begin to memorize the book of James.
2. Memorize the following passages and share them with a trusted friend in a non-threatening way: 1 Thessalonians 2:3; Jeremiah 15:16; 2 Timothy 3:14:17; 2 Peter 1:19-21.
3. What do you tend to hide about yourself? When do you tend to blame others? Have your family member/trusted friend evaluate you in light of 1 Timothy 2:24. Set goals together to improve in this area.

“NOT GIVEN TO WINE”

1 Timothy 3:2, 3; Titus 1:7

The Greek word for this character quality is “**paroinos**.” It is used to describe one who is given to much wine; a drunk active in outrageous behavior. It has a wider meaning of assaulting with drunken violence. The man/woman of God is not to be a brawler or one who even in their sober moments acts with a lack of self-control as an outrageous or drunken person would. They have their appetite under control. The literal meaning of the Greek phrase is “one who sits too long at his wine.” This is not teaching total abstinence. Fermented wine was a common beverage in the first century when this was written. A character quality is given. This person is not to allow themselves to be controlled by anything. The following verses relate to this character quality: Ephesians 5:18a; Romans 14:21; Proverbs 23:29-34; Proverbs 23:19-21.

Bible Study

Proverbs 23

1. Read this chapter six times and state its major theme. List all the areas discussed in this chapter.
2. What is the overriding principle taught throughout this chapter that applies to each area discussed?
3. List the results of disobedience recorded in this chapter. What is the significance of verse 30?
4. Describe the man of verses 29-35 in your own words. How does this chapter point out that a man’s actions reveals his true character? What does this chapter say about your social relationships?

PROJECTS

1. Memorize 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and Mathew 6:19-34. Find a least one good way to apply these this week. Write down the results of your application.
2. Read the following passages, state a principle from each and write in specifics of how you can apply the principles this week:
 - Matthew 6:19-34
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-10
 - Proverbs 15:27
 - Proverbs 23:4, 5
 - Proverbs 30:7-9
 - Ecclesiastes 5:10
 - 2 Corinthians 8:9

Evaluate your results at the end of the week.

“FREE FROM THE LOVE OF MONEY”
1 Timothy 3:3; Hebrews 13:5

The Greek word used here is “aphilarguros” and is one who is a seeker of gain in disgraceful ways.” This is one who does not care how he makes money so long as he makes money so long as he makes it. He is “stuck to money like bees to honey.” He values the material things above the spiritual. The Pharisees were called lovers of money in Luke 16:14. Spiritual leaders can fall into this kind of seeking for sordid gain according to Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2; and Titus 1:10-11. Read the following verses and note how the principles taught balance each other: Acts 20:33; 1 Timothy 5:18; 1 Corinthians 9:9-11.

Bible Study

Malachi

1. (1:6–2:9) What were the sins of the priest? What was God’s discipline for the sinful priest? What qualities were found in Levi’s life? (there were five – Malachi 2:5-6)
2. (Chapter 2) What were the sins of the priest (v.8)? Was the calling of a priest a high one (v. 7)?
3. (Chapter 3) Compare the people of 3:7-15 to the people of 3:16-18.
4. (Chapter 3) God accused the people of two sins. What were they (vs. 7-15)? What is the principle for giving and blessing found in 3:10? What is the special promise of verse 16? How does it relate to true Christian fellowship?

PROJECTS

1. Memorize Romans 14:3, 5. What is your attitude toward Christians who hold and practice different attitudes toward drinking than you do? What should your attitude toward them be? Is the only ground you have for correcting them based on whether they are overindulging and/or causing a weaker brother to stumble? (Galatians 6:1)
2. Where in your own life do you overindulge? Ask your family/friends. State three specific ways to overcome any overindulging patterns.

What are you doing to harm your body, cloud your thinking, or bring yourself into bondage? State specific ways to overcome the weak areas.

“NOT SELF-WILLED”

Titus 1:7

The Greek word here is “**authades**” and literally means “to please one-self.” It describes a man who is dominated by self interest, inconsiderate of others, and arrogantly asserts his own self-pleasing desires. He is so pleased with himself that nothing else pleases him and he cares to please nobody. He is one who persists in violent behavior. The self-willed man has an egocentric attitude that leads to arrogance and wrong thinking about himself. This is the term Peter used to describe the heretics who were afraid of nothing (2 Peter 2:10-18). He is not willing to listen to any idea other than his own. He always has to have his own way; he builds the world around himself and thinks he is never wrong. He may have learned to act this way through overindulgence or from childhood where he was over-restricted.

Bible Study

Ecclesiastes

1. What was the problem Solomon was trying to solve? (1:1-3)
2. What things did Solomon try in order to find happiness in life apart from God? (1:4-11; 1:17-18; 2:1; 2:4; 2:5; 6; 2:7; 3:1-9; 3:22; 5:1-8; 6:2; 7:1). What did his self-willed life lead him to?
3. What is the significance of Ecclesiastes 12:13?
4. What does Ecclesiastes 12:14 reveal about his thinking concerning God?
5. How does right thinking about God relate to conquering your own self-will?

1 Samuel 15

1. What were God’s instructions to Saul (verse 3)? Why?
2. What seven ways in words and actions did Saul show himself to be a self-willed man?
3. Study carefully verses 12-15. What does this reveal about Saul? Was he willing to admit his sin? Why?
4. What were the results of his sin?

PROJECTS

1. Memorize James 3:17; 1:5-8; Galatians 5:25.
2. Ask your family or a friend when you are not gentle and should be. Lead them through a study of this character quality and have each one (include yourself) to evaluate each other’s life in the area of gentleness. Pinpoint areas of weakness and write out specific goals to be accomplished during the next month. At the end of the month, discuss your progress and set new goals for next month. Do all of the above in the context of love and gentleness.

“GENTLE”

1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 2:18; James 3:17

The Greek word for this quality is “epieike.” It literally means “unto seemliness.” It describes one who discharges his duties in an equitable manner. It is that which corrects justice or corrects law when it errs because of its generality. The man who is gentle is yielding, kind, fair, mild, suitable, and not insisting on the letter of the law. He looks humanely and reasonably at the facts of a case. He is mild-mannered and has a great deal of forbearance. He is gentle toward three major groups of people:

- a. The non-Christian: Titus 3:2, 3, 4-5; 2 Timothy 2:24, 25
- b. The carnal Christian: Galatians 6:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; 2 Corinthians 10:1
- c. All Christians: Ephesians 4:2, 3; Colossians 3:12, 13; Matthew 18:21-35

There is no contradiction in a “man’s man” and a gentle man. A gentle man has his strength under control. According to 1 Timothy 6:11, it is something we are to pursue.

Bible Study

Genesis 37, 42-45—Joseph and his brothers.

Study the chapters listed above. Contrast Joseph’s treatment of his brothers to their treatment of him.

1. List the qualities found in Joseph’s character.
2. How did he think about God? How did this cause him to be gentle in the treatment of his brothers?
3. How did his brothers respond to his gentleness?

Matthew 18:21-25

1. What principle is taught in this parable? What questions does it answer?
2. How did the forgiven slave treat his debtor? What were the results?
3. Rewrite the story giving every character a gentle character. What would be the results? What were the results the last time you did not show gentleness to somebody?

PROJECTS

1. Memorize Galatians 5:22-23 and list two ways you can apply this in your relationship with people this week.
2. Study Philippians 2. List the four examples given in the chapter of ones who were submissive to the will of God. What were the benefits of their submission? How can you apply this in your home life, business, church life, and all other relationships?

“NOT QUICK TEMPERED”

Titus 1:7

The word for this character quality is “orgilos” and describes a person who nurses their wrath to keep it warm. This is a person who is soon angry, prone to anger, and does not have their anger under control. They are impulsive or have a “short fuse.” They are easily threatened, quick to fight back and fly off the handle. This kind of person loses their perspective. James speaks to this issue in chapter one, verse twenty. It should be noted that not all anger is sinful (Ephesians 4:26-27). Anger is evil when (1) it arises too soon, (2) when it is prolonged on purpose, or (3) takes the law into its own hands. A person who is quick-tempered is immature spiritually and psychologically. They may act this way because they learned it, are selfish or are insecure.

Bible Study

Proverbs

Study the following verses on anger and state specific applications of each one.
 What principle does each teach?

How, if applied, would it change your life-style? Memorize three of these verses.

Proverbs 6:34; 12:16; 14:17, 29; 15:1, 18; 16:29, 32; 17:14; 19:19; 21:24; 22:24-25; 25:28; 27:3-4; 29:8, 9, 22; 30:33.

PROJECTS

1. Study Isaiah 14:12-16, Genesis 37, Exodus 5-12 and Genesis 27. List all the principles taught about contentiousness. What were the results in each cause? When are you most contentious? Why? Set specific goals with your family or a trusted friend to improve in this area. Make specific applications from the principles you learned in this study.
2. Try to identify the causes of contentiousness in your own life. Jealous of selfish, insecurity, or root of bitterness? Write out specific goals, deal with specific problems and specific people. Turn these into prayer requests.

“UNCONTENTIOUS”

1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 3:2

The Greek word here is “amachos” and means “not a fighter.” It is one who is peaceable. This person is the opposite of one who is always struggling with others, carrying a chip on his shoulder, and is “trigger happy” in his relationships with others. The term was used of one who was in a fight or combat; it was used of one who was in arms. An uncontentious man is one who practices and promotes unity (*John 17:20, 21, 23*) and serenity (*Matthew 23:11*). He is a peacemaker (*Matthew 5:9*). A contentious man may be bitter (*Hebrews 12:14, 15*) or have a great fear of failure (*1 Peter 5:3*). He may be selfish or jealous. James 3:14-16 gives the character of a contentious man.

Bible Study

Numbers

1. (*Chapter 11*) What was the sin of the people? What resulted in Moses’ life?
2. (*Chapter 12*) What was the specific sin of Miriam and Aaron? How were they related to Moses (15:20; 4:14)? What resulted from the sin? Contrast their actions with those of Moses.
3. (*Chapter 14*) What was the sin of the people? What characterized these people (14:22)? What verses best define contentiousness? List the results of obedience and disobedience in his chapter.
4. (*Chapter 16*) How does 15:37-41 set the stage for Korah’s rebellion? What did his sin cost him? Why did God punish these people? How did Moses demonstrate an uncontentious spirit?

PROJECTS

1. Memorize Romans 12:17-21 and answer honestly the following questions:
 - a. Do I tend to get angry quickly?
 - b. Do my angry feelings tend to persist and linger?
 - c. Do I tend to get even with those who make me angry?

Read 1 John 1:9 and apply it if one of the above is true.
2. Determine the cause of anger problems: a bad parental example, spoiled and self-centered person, insecurity, over-restricted childhood? Memorize James 1:19-20 and state ten ways to apply the truth there this week.
3. Memorize Philippians 1:6; Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:16; and Ephesians 5:18.

State specific ways to apply these to any problem with anger you may face.

Evaluate yourself in one week after you have applied these truths.
4. Read Romans 6-8 and list 10 ways to overcome any anger problems. Apply one per day for the next 10 days.

“NOT PUGNACIOUS”

1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7

The Greek word for this quality is “plektes” and literally means a striker. This is a man who is ready to come to blows. The Greeks widened the term to mean one who is violent in action and speech. This is a man who browbeats his fellow man. He is quarrelsome and contentious. This man desperately needs to be in control of his human spirit.

Bible Study

Moses

1. Read Acts 7:20-29
 - a. What does this passage reveal about Moses’ impulsive nature?
 - b. How did God use this mistake to improve his character in the long run?
(Romans 8:28-29)
2. Exodus 2
 - a. The key verse here is 19. How does this again demonstrate his impatience and impulsive nature?
Numbers 20:1-13
 - a. What was Moses’ sin?
 - b. What did it cost him?
 - c. What was God’s attitude toward it?

PROJECTS

1. Make sure you are not hurting people in subtle ways with your attitudes and speech. Evaluate your relationships with people during the next week. Write down how you talk about them to others. If there was a gossip or subtle talk behind their back then restudy the Bible Study on the opposite page and apply it in specific ways.
 2. Study carefully Matthew 5:21-24; 18:15-17, 21 and 22. Develop in detail a biblical approach to handling personal offenses and forgiveness.
 3. Try to isolate areas of resentment in your personality and confess them (*1 John 1:9*)
Pray for God’s strength to overcome them (*Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4*).
Write specific goals to apply and evaluate during the next month.