

CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

MODULE OBJECTIVES:

1. To equip you with the unseen ideals and the non-negotiable traits that guide people of Christ-like character, including humility, faithfulness, forgiveness, courage, integrity, loyalty, diligence, gratitude, compassion, and patience
2. You will learn how to tap into the power to always do the right thing.
3. You will learn to stay in a place with God where the anointing on your lives can flow and bring the unseen riches of the Kingdom of God to those around you.

MODULE TEXT:

Title

The Minister's Life of Obedience
Life Christian University

Author

Phillip Richards¹
Year 1 - B.Th.

MODULE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Read all of the required texts.
2. Attend all classes or listen to recordings of any missed classes.
3. Read *Character Matters* by Mark Rutland². (*If possible*)

¹ Available from Xulon Press 1-866-381-2665. Allow 2 weeks for delivery. Ask for Jason at ext. 1163 or e-mail jfletcher@xulonpress.com.

² Available from Global Servants at www.globalservants.org. Allow 2 weeks for delivery. For large orders, call 1-888-823-8772 and ask for James.

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SECTION ONE

Week 1: Introduction

A. The struggle for character

The Story Begins: The Struggle Within

Imagine a man named Daniel. He loves God and wants to do what's right. But every day, he struggles. He knows he should speak kindly to his coworkers, but anger slips out. He wants to forgive, but hurt still lingers. He desires to be honest, but sometimes fear wins.

Daniel's story is ours too. Just like the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 7:15,18-19, we often know what's right — but still fail to do it. Without Jesus, we are trapped in this cycle. The world around us teaches us to protect ourselves, look out for number one, and chase our desires (Ephesians 2:2-3).

1. Every human being has inherent worth because they bear the image of God, their creator.
2. In unbelievers, this image is marred by sin.
 - a. Without Christ, man finds himself in situations where he knows what is the right thing to do, but he is unable to do it – Rom. 7:15; 18-19.
3. The world system is self-centered, self-serving, and self-protecting – Eph. 2:2-3.

Character is the inner quality of a person that shapes how they think, speak, and act — especially when no one is watching.

In a Christian context, **character** means becoming more like Christ in how we live, love, and lead. It's not just about good behavior; it's about who we are **on the inside**, being shaped by the Holy Spirit to reflect Jesus.

Here are a few key aspects of character:

- **Rooted in values:** Character is built on moral and spiritual principles, like honesty, kindness, and humility.
- **Revealed by choices:** You see someone's character in how they respond to pressure, temptation, and difficulty.
- **Shaped over time:** True character is formed by daily decisions, discipline, and spiritual growth.
- **Reflects Christ:** For believers, character means being conformed to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29), letting God's Spirit shape us to live and love like Him.

Simple definition:

Character is who you are when no one is watching — and who you're becoming in God's hands.

“Character is who we are on the inside. It's not about looking good or saying the right words when people are around — it's about being honest, faithful, and kind even when no one sees you.”

Key Scripture Points:

- **Proverbs 11:3 (NIV):**

“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.”

Character is the inner compass that guides your life.

- **Romans 12:2 (NIV):**

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

God doesn’t just clean up our outside — He transforms us from the inside out.

- **Galatians 5:22–23:**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

This is the kind of character God wants to grow in us.

Main Point:

“Your character is who you are when no one is watching. God is more concerned about what’s growing inside you than what you look like outside.”

B. Honorable character comes from God.

God’s Story: Rewriting Our Character

But God sees something more. Every person is made in His image — that includes you. Though sin has scarred that image, God has a plan to restore it. He doesn’t just give you rules to follow. He invites you to **become like His Son**, Jesus.

Jesus is the perfect image of God the Father (see **Hebrews 1:3**). When you look at Jesus, you’re seeing God’s heart, His power, His purity (**John 14:9... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!**).

1. The Bible teaches honorable character as we see who God is and what He does.
2. The English word “character” is from a Latin root that means “engraved.”
3. Jesus, the Son, is the “character” or “express image” of God the Father – Heb. 1:3.
 - a. Jesus is the precise reproduction of the Father in every aspect.
 - b. He proves the existence, quality, nature, confidence, trust, and assurance of God’s person – John 14:9.

Now here’s the good news: God is actively working inside you to shape you into Jesus’ likeness (see **Philippians 2:13** and **Romans 8:29**).

4. God shapes us, conforming us to the image of Jesus.

It is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight (Philippians 2:13 AMP).

For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:29 AMP).

🔍 The Mirror Inside You

Experts say that by the age of 5, half of your inner image — the way you see yourself — is already formed. By 18, it's mostly set. This shapes how you live, what you expect, and even what you believe about your value. But God wants to **transform that inner mirror**.

- a. Experts say that within each person is a “dominant image” of who they are.
 - 1) This image is 50% developed by the time a child is 5 years old and 80% developed by the age of 18.
 - 2) This image provides a “frame of reference” for the individual.
- b. In the world system, some are “successes” and some are “failures.”

The world labels people as winners or losers. But God calls you **redeemed**. And through Christ, your mind and self-image can be renewed (**Romans 12:2**).

- c. God's complete plan of salvation for every individual has – at its foundation – a transformation of that dominant image of self – Rom. 12:2.

The Battle for Christ-Like Character

To walk in true character — like Jesus — you need more than willpower. You need faith.

Jesus didn't live rightly just because He was good. He lived by the **power of the Holy Spirit**. That same Spirit is now in you. Your Christian life started the moment you received Jesus. But it continues daily as you choose to:

- **Make the next right decision**
- **Say no to self**
- **Walk by the Spirit**, not the flesh (Gal 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:12)

5. It's impossible to walk in Christ-like character without applying our faith.
 - a. As Christians, we have the same power of the Holy Spirit within us that Jesus did - to resist the pull toward evil and self-centeredness.
 - b. We have to *continually draw on God's power*, walking according to the spirit, and not after the flesh – Gal 5:16, 1 Thess. 2:12.
 - c. The Christian life begins with a decision to accept Jesus as Savior & Lord.
 - d. We learn to make right decisions every day and “do the next right thing.”
6. Christian character is not a new set of rules – this is not about performance.
 - a. The standard of perfection that Jesus set is impossible for man to reach on his own.
7. Christian character is letting God live His life through us and express Himself to the world through us – as Jesus did – John 5:19; 8:28,29; 14:10.

C. Character matters!

1. The character of any society will be dictated by how it defines its virtues.

Virtue: Dictionary meaning: behavior showing high moral standards/ a quality considered morally good or desirable in a person

2. “A society which values success and convenience over integrity and sacrifice will never produce citizens and leaders who will fight the weight of materialism, struggle to resist compromise, and defeat fear.” – Mark Rutland
3. “We must purpose in our hearts for God to teach us true virtue so that it permeates the inner man and becomes the illuminating influence of our lives” (Rutland, *Character Matters*, 10).

D. The English word “virtue” derives from the Latin word for strength (“virtus”).

1. There is power (“dunamis”) in virtue – Luke 6:19.
2. “Honor carries and is supported by the supernatural power of God” (Kenneth Copeland, *Honor*, 5)

If we do the honorable thing, then the honor of God will hold us up –
Rom. 8:36-37; Eph. 6:8; 1 Sam. 2:30.

E. We fear (reverence or highly honor) God by living life as He directs.

1. We are submitted and committed to doing what He says.
2. We have a great respect for God’s Word and His ways.
3. We put aside our feelings and human reasonings and simply obey!

F. Making the virtuous choice is always a walk of faith – we must believe that God will see us through and make everything turn out for our good.

G. The virtues of humility, faithfulness, forgiveness, courage, integrity, loyalty, diligence, gratitude, compassion, and patience are the pillars of your Christian life.

Behaviors that undermine character bring death to your success in life.

Quiz ppt –

Quiz: Christ-like Character in Real-Life Situations

Match the real-life situation in Column A with the Christ-like character trait in Column B.

Column A: Situations

Column B: Christ-like Character Traits