

# THE MIND IN CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

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Definition of Character -- "Permanents beliefs which result in consistent behavior." Bad beliefs will bring bad character, hence the tremendous need of the Word of God for strong Biblical teaching and personal convictions must be the foundation of the life.

Bad character or good character -- is brought about by the mind oriented to either truth or to error.

No character (or bad character) -- flesh or feeling oriented, doing what one feels like doing. The basis of decisions is feeling or desire built into the life by a feeling oriented life. Instead of the mind controlling the feelings and thus controlling the body the feelings control all. There can be a breakdown of character in every area of life.

By age of 20 character is pretty well set. Personality can change. Character habits are important, for habits either make us or break us depending whether they are good or bad habits.

## I. AS IT RELATES TO THE BODY AND EMOTIONS:

### A. The Flesh:

This is man's fallen nature which manifest itself through the whole man. It usually works in the emotional or feeling realm involving the senses. People who are feeling oriented usually are, or become, flesh oriented. (Galatians 5:17-21) Therefore they find it very easy to walk in the sins of the flesh which bring destruction.

### B. Emotions and Senses:

We are to use them to the glory of God. We must learn to glorify God with emotions and senses by subjugating them to the control of the mind! The mind must control the emotions and the mind can only control properly as the Word of God saturates the mind and hence the emotions are then under the mind's control.

## II. AS IT RELATES TO THE MIND:

**A. Do Right Now** - Doing what is right to do, at the appropriate time whether you feel like it or not.

**B. Fear Of the Lord** - a life attitude-- to hate evil. (Pro. 1:7; 9:10; 8:13)

**C. Divine Viewpoint** - (Phil. 4:8; II Cor. 10:5; Pro. 25:28; I Thess 5:18)

**D. Basic Traits** - which make character with eternal values in view.

1. Responsibility - (Heb. 11:25; Rom. 12:11)

2. Respect for Authority - obedience - (Rom. 13; I Pet. 2:13-19; I Tim. 6:1-5; Heb. 13:17) When there is a lack of respect to those in authority there is little to build upon in that person's life.

The lack of respect to God-given authority figures brings an orientation of disobedience, and rejection of others giving direction to the life. Such disrespect renders great difficulty to bring correction to the life of the individual. The lack of respect on the part of a child is a very serious thing for it makes it very difficult to bring obedience and to build character for the authority figures right's have been rejected, and hence the teaching is nullified.

3. Goal Oriented Work -- finish the job - (II Cor. 4:128; Phil. 3:13,14)
4. Loyalty to the Word of God and to Christ, Family Country, Church -- (II Tim. 4:10; I Jh 2:19)
5. Love -- God and people, show it, - (Matt. 22:32; Chapter 4 of I John)
6. Servanthood -- Humility - (Phil. 2:7, 8; Gal. 6:2,5)
7. Giving - Consideration - (II Cor. 9:6,7; Gal. 6:7-9)
8. Gratitude - Thanksgiving, praise - ( Col. 3:17; I Thess 5:18; Col.4:1; Heb. 13:16)
9. Honesty - Integrity - Don't live or tell a lie - (Rom. 12:17; II Cor. 8:21; Phil. 4:8)
10. Purity - (I Thess. 4:1-6)
11. Forgiving others - (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13)
12. Seeking personal forgiveness - (I Jh. 1:7,9; Prov. 28:13)

### **III. AS IT RELATES TO A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE, CHARACTER:** Gal. 5:22,23

We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 5:18) The Holy Spirit can only bring His "*fruit*" into the life that is controlled by Him. To be filled with the Spirit is to be under His control.

The Lord Jesus taught much about the Holy Spirit... His coming, ministry, purpose, power, etc. (You will find a very complete study on this web site about the ministry of the Holy Spirit, so I will not go into detail here.) When the Holy Spirit is at work in the life of the believer then He can bring about the "*overflowing of rivers of living water,*" which Christ referred to in John 7:37-39.

### **IV. AS IT IS TAUGHT BY:**

- A. Memorize and Meditate** -- Psa. 1:2; Josh 1:8
- B. Verbalized statements, slogans** -- put around the house, make real to the child.

- C. **Example** -- living as a parent as a model of what you want to produce in the child.
- D. **Teaching Biblical principles and commands upon which rules are based.**
- E. **Vicariously** -- stories, biographies, heroes of the faith
- F. **Action** - projects done with the child.

**Conclusion:**

1. We should have clear purposes in working with a client or counselee about their children and youth.
2. We ought to help them work through this section, as an aid to build their child's life, along with the other sections on habits, etc.
3. This could give great help and encouragement to any parent.