

Acts 17 Part 1: Christian Character

Character is...

- Moral strength—can distinguish right from wrong *and* deliberately choose right.
- Integrity—honesty, living the truth, humility.
- Fortitude—can endure pain or troubles with courage.

Character Is Evidenced by Reputation (Ruth 3:11; Proverbs 12:4; Proverbs 31:10)

Character Gains Wisdom from Scriptures (*Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Psalms 119:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-6a*)

Character Is Enhanced Through Hard Times (*Romans 5:3-5; Deuteronomy 8:2; Philippians 4:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8*)

Developing Character (*Prov 22:15; Genesis 18:19; Deut. 6:4-9*)

Bad company corrupts good character (1 Corinthians 15:33)

Corrupts = to destroy the honesty of; to ruin morally; to contaminate; to render useless.

Scriptural Examples

- Paul's Warning (*2 Corinthians 11:19-20*)
- Bad Characters (*Acts 17:5*)
- Samson (*Judges 13*)
- Rehoboam (*2 Chronicles 10*)

Good company strengthens good character

- Starts at home—emphasize the family unit.
- Other families—interact with children and adults of all ages.
- Quality peers—parents take an active role in helping children make quality friendships.

Acts 17 Part 2 - Christian Worldview

God Was Once Known

Example: the ancient Chinese language

禁 (to forbid) = 林 (tree) + 示 (to command)
犧 (to sacrifice) = 牛 (ox) + 羊 (sheep) + 秀 (unblemished) + 戈 (spear)
義 (righteousness) = 羊 (lamb) + 我 (me)
船 (boat) = 舟 (vessel) + 八 (8) + 口 (person)

What is a Biblical worldview?

- Choosing truth over relativism
- Choosing true spirituality over a form of religion that denies its power (2 Timothy 3:5)
- Choosing to confront the culture rather than being conformed by it

“The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these letters is that to us it is primarily a performance; to them it was a real experience ... They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ ‘living in’ them.” (J. B. Phillips)

“Looking in the eyes of the children, knowing that tomorrow is at stake. When the choice is up to them, will they have the strength to say? ‘We won’t bend and we won’t break, we won’t water down our faith, we won’t compromise in a world of desperation.’ What has been I cannot change but for tomorrow and today, I must be a light for future generations.” (from “Future Generations” by 4Him)