

Character:

The force of a person's moral personality



Character is what makes a person distinct from others in a moral sense. A.W. Tozer described character as “the excellence of moral beings.” People are known by their character; their disposition, intentions, desires, and actions. Character is the sum of who a person is based on their general tendencies, not on some moral failure they may have. King David committed adultery and murder, yet, God deemed him a man after His own heart - David’s character was generally positive. Many of Israel’s kings did not have that strength of character. When looking at a person’s character, we must look at their whole life.

The overall character of a person matters; it is who we are when no one sees us. Even though the public may not see our behavior, God does and it will affect our relationships - especially our marriage relationship. Men who are abusive of their wives are almost always known publicly as “a good guy.” Yet, spousal abuse demonstrates poor character. But this doesn’t apply only to abuse; adultery, pornography, gossip, addictions, or many other sins may not be visible outwardly, but continual, habitual sin, reveals a poor moral character and possibly even reveals that a person doesn’t truly know Christ as Lord and Savior (see 1John 3:6).

Achieving the character God desires from us requires the work of the Holy Spirit and our ‘being transformed by the renewing of our minds’ (Romans 12:2). The Word of God transforms us and the Holy Spirit empowers us to live Godly lives that will bring about positive, godly character. Our challenge is to live that positive, godly character in our marriages. The marriage relationship, more than any other relationship on earth, will help us grow in our character and to achieve the godly moral personality God desires in us.

The question must be asked; do *you* exhibit the character God desires of you, even in the privacy of your own home? With your wife, children, and those closest to you, who see the *real* you? The Fruit of the Spirit isn’t something we attain, but is indicative of our character and our maturity. Do you exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit? *Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*? This is the mark of the mature Christian, the one who lives a life surrendered to Christ. Sure, you are not perfect, but what are the general tendencies of your life? Strive for a moral personality that reflects Jesus Christ.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com*

For more information about character see:

Christian character—What does the Bible say?

www.compellingtruth.org/Christian-character.html

3 Character Traits You Need to Develop for Your Marriage to Bloom by JB Cachila

www.christiantoday.com/article/3.character.traits.you.need.to.grow.for.your.marriage.to.bloom/102487.htm

5 Character Qualities You Need for Marriage by Phylcia Masonheimer

www.projectinspired.com/5-character-qualities-you-need-for-marriage