

## **Essentials to Leadership: Character Development**

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### **Course description: Character Development – part 4**

This course continues to discuss the biblical necessity of godly character. Each lesson dives into specifics about how we develop our character in ways that build credibility, respect, and the type of integrity to lead God's people.

#### **Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:**

- A. Reviewed the context of six passages related to trust.
- B. Discussed two main areas where the subject of trust relates to our leadership.
- C. Determined five ways we can increase the level of trust that exists in our leadership.

#### **Outline of the class:**

- A. Most of us are familiar with the numerous lessons we've heard about the need to place our trust in God. We need to trust Him. We relate to passages and people like the following:
  - 1. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart...
  - 2. Genesis 6 Noah demonstrated his trust in God by doing all he was commanded.
  - 3. Genesis 22 Abraham demonstrated trust by stepping up to offer his son.
  - 4. 2 Kings 19:14ff Hezekiah demonstrated trust in God in times of impossible odds.
  - 5. Luke 18:9 shows a contrast with the Pharisees who trusted in themselves.
- B. We must trust in God. It is the bedrock of Christianity. However, there is a different question we need to consider: Can God trust us?
  - 1. When Paul wrote the church in Corinth, he referenced the fact that we are stewards of the mysteries of God and it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy (1 Co. 4:1-2).
  - 2. The idea expressed involves faithfulness. When we are faithful, we are worthy of God's trust. It is a bit overwhelming to think that how we live our lives is an area that reflects on the relationship we have with God and how trust is a component of that relationship.
- C. There are two main areas we need to consider when we discuss the subject of trust.
  - 1. Our relationship with God
    - a. Can God trust us to be good students of His word? Discuss this question in light of Acts 17:11 and 2 Timothy 2:15

- b. Can God trust us to evangelize the lost? Reflect on the Great Commission and how we are doing in this department. Do we make God's word relevant to the current culture of our world?
  - c. Can God trust us to love His church? This is huge! When we consider the divisions that exist in the church today, does the world see love? When we speak about one another, do people see love? Read John 13:34-35 and 1 John 4:7-21 and consider how these passages relate to this question.
  - d. Can God trust us to make the right choices in leadership? God has always required leadership for His people. Do we make excuses why we cannot or will not lead? Are we willing to step up and do what is needed to lead God's people in a time when it is critical?
2. Our leadership of God's people
- a. Are we competent? The decisions we make in areas of family, finance, personal relationships on the job, and our example in the community all communicate a level of competence.
  - b. Are we connected to God's people? We need to know the people we are around and serve. What are their needs? Are we listening to them? Consider ways we can become more connected:
    - i. Get involved in their lives
    - ii. Be more transparent about our own lives
    - iii. Give people something to believe in
    - iv. Be consistent
    - v. Relate to people individually
    - vi. Find ways to genuinely compliment others
- D. Divide the class into groups of four. Ask each group to spend the next 10 minutes to make a list of ways that we can develop greater levels of trust.
- E. Once the task is completed, ask each group to share one of the ways they listed and how that helps develop trust. Some possible suggestions to add to the discussion include:
- 1. Active communication: More will be discussed on communication in future lessons, but it is vital to be good listeners and speakers.
  - 2. Demonstrate competence in decision making.

3. Eliminate inconsistencies. We are not called to be perfect, but we are called to be faithful. We need to strive for consistency in how we live and how we handle mistakes when we make them. Remember: When we do something good, people remember it for about 8 days. When we do something bad, they remember it for about 8 years.
4. Cultivate integrity. Reflect back on our discussion of integrity in the first lesson. We need to live in a way that demonstrates the holy God who has called us into fellowship with Him through Jesus.
5. Seek and follow wise counsel.

Conclusion:

- A. When it comes to developing character in our leadership, no other area possesses the foundational quality of trust.
- B. Leaders must focus on developing and maintaining the quality of trust in relationship with God and the leadership of His people.
- C. Next week, we will build on this discussion and consider another area that directly relates to our character.

Recommended Reading:

Covey, Stephen. *The Speed of Trust*