**Seven Principles of Christian Character**

**What is Character?**

**Character is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that makes up a person’s life.**

**Christian character must start with the right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

1. **Truth**

Luke 6:47-49

Deuteronomy 32:4

**The first, and most basic principle of Christian character is to build your life on the rock, God, Christ Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Truth is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God**.

John 3:1-7

John 16:13

John 14:6

1 Corinthians 3:11“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

1 Samuel 12:24

**There must be only one set of standards set in the home and that must be set in order by the father in accord with the truths of God’s Word as its basis.**

John 17:17

**Everything is established on TRUTH and falls on a lie.**

1. **Be Honest!**
* Be honest with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

 - acknowledge that you are a sinner.

 - Be honest with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

 - acknowledge the need of God’s forgiveness

 - acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the only means of forgiveness

 - repent of your sins and receive and believe on Jesus Christ as

 your Savior

* Be honest with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 - Give a real life changed testimony before others of a Christ

 controlled life. 2 Corinthians 5:17

1. **Don’t live in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by trying to be someone else!**
2. **Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!**
* Ephesians 4:28
	+ Money
	+ Material things
	+ Integrity – to take the credit for something you did not do.
	+ Position – or rank out of pride or selfishness.
1. **Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!**
* Ephesians 4:15 “Speaking the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in love.”

**Conclusion: Truth is the foundation of Christian Character! “Live like Christ!”**

**2. Respect for Authority**

The second principle of Christian character is respect for authority. True authority can only be established upon Truth. The Bible says that we are to give honor unto those in authority. If someone in the position of authority over another person lies, cheats, is dishonest, or breaks truth, he cannot be respected or honored. Therefore, respect for authority can only be given to those who live in accord with truth. The Bible lists several people in positions of authority that we are called to respect and honor.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – Ephesians 6:1-2
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Peter 2:17; 1 Timothy 2:1-2
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Timothy 5:1-5
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – Ephesians 6:5-9
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – Hebrews 13:17
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Peter 3:1-7

Always remember that God has given these people positions of authority that we ought to respect and obey by position. When truth is not seen and practiced in their position of authority, they will lose their position of respect and opposition and disrespect will set in. Always remember that we must be honest with our selves, and honest with God, and honest with people.

**3. Morals**

We can define morals as basic principle values concerning what is right and what is wrong.

There must be a foundation for all right and wrong actions.

The World states that there are five foundations for morals.

1. **Care** – the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of what is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance and protection of someone or something.

***verses***

**Harm** – the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, especially that which is deliberately inflicted.

1. **Fairness** – the impartial and \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or behavior without favoritism or discrimination.

***verses***

**Cheating** – to act \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or unfairly in order to gain an advantage.

1. **Liberty** – the state of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one’s way of life.

***verses***

**Oppression** – to prolong cruel or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of control.

1. **Authority** – the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 ***verses***

 **Subversion** – the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the power and authority

 of an established system or institution.

1. **Sanctity** – the state or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of being holy, sacred, or saintly.

***verses***

**Degradation** – the condition or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of degrading or being degraded.

 While the world looks at these as the foundations for morals we must realize that God’s Word, the Bible, is the real determinate foundation for all morality. Man in his fallen, depraved, sinful state makes wrong decisions in accord with his own selfish desires; is immoral and needs God’s laws to show him his helpless lost condition. Therefore, God gave the Ten Commandments, found in Exodus 20:1-17, to show mankind God’s condemnation of sin and the need of a Savior (Galatians 3:19-27). In Matthew 4:4 Jesus said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” God’s Word, the Bible, must be the true foundation for all moral actions of man.

Morals are principles of truth from God’s Word.

No morals is rejection of God’s Word and acceptance of humanistic reasoning.

Satanism is acceptance of anything contrary to the Word of God and His will.

**4. Responsibility**

 Responsibility – the state or fact of having a duty to deal with

 something or having control over someone.

 Luke 12:42-48 – read

 Responsibility is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Privilege requires \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Accountability establishes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Reliability determines \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Trust-worthiness is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. God is faithful to us and we must learn to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

1. God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to Himself to be faithful to do good works.

Ephesians 2:8-10 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

1. Man’s faith in God establishes his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God which pleases God.

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that *diligently* (faithfully) seek him.”

1. Children must learn to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ God’s commandments to come to understanding.

Psalms 111:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”

Oh, that we would teach our children to take on responsibilities and be found faithful servants.

**5. Work**

Next, we must learn to teach and train our children to work at making right choices as they fulfill their responsibilities.

Work is activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a purpose or result.

1. No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, no \_\_\_\_\_!

2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

1. The work must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when it must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 10:5 “He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.”

1. Be completely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God in all that you do.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”

1. Godly workers will be blessed but the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will suffer loss.

1 Corinthians 3:12-16 – read

Psalms 111:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”

1. Faithful workers will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our own doings for salvation do not save, but faithful works through the power of Christ will produce glory to God after salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-10 – read

1. The principle of work is very important if the Christian is to work out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his life.

Philippians 2:12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

1. We must teach our children to work mentally and physically by consecrating their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God through prayer, Bible study and application of the Scriptures to find out God’s perfect will for their lives.

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

**6. Endurance**

 Endurance is the ability not to quit, but to keep on, keeping on when the going gets tough. It’s the ability to withstand hardship or adversity. If something is worth starting it is worth finishing.

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Be ye \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – be settled; confide in the truths of God’s Word

Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – to not move away; let nothing shake your faith; let nothing move you away from this hope of the Gospel which is given unto you.

Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ abounding – to be over and above the usual, in the work of the Lord.

**7. Discipline**

 Discipline is the practice of training people to obey rules of behavior using punishment to correct disobedience.

2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

* Scripture is given to us from God.
* Scripture is profitable for
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – what you do and teach – Acts 1:1
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – to bring to conviction of a wrong.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – to turn around from wrong to right.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – to teach how to do something.
* Scripture obeyed produces the man of God

 Every person must learn to discipline himself to seek truth, and allow it to be his authority concerning moral principles. He then must take on the responsibility of trying to live by truth. Because man is a sinner he will fail in his own strength.

 When man seeks for truth with all his heart, soul, and mind he will ultimately come to find the fullness of truth in Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 29:13 says “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Proverbs 8:35 says “For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the LORD.

Summary:

 These seven basic principles of Christian Character form the basis for all character. They must be lived and taught directly and indirectly by parents to their children. Therefore parents will drive their children to God or from God depending on their lives and teachings. ***Ultimately God’s truths must touch the heart of the children for salvation and Lordship. Then and only then will the fruits of the Holy Spirit be seen flowing from their lives.***