

Does Character Matter?

A few days ago I was listening to a call-in radio show program on the car radio. The subject was the recent resignation of a prominent politician from the U. S. Senate who had been caught sending texts of an immoral nature to women who were not his wife. The caller was advocating the position that the senator's private life should not be the deciding factor of whether to resign or not. This person said that only the public service record of such a man should be considered in such decisions. As I listened to this, the question came to mind, "Does character really matter?"

Recently, while sitting in a local Waffle House enjoying an omelet and some hash browns, a veteran of the Iraq war sat down in the booth next to me and began speaking to a fellow veteran. He began explaining to him how to properly answer medical questions so that he could get a higher percentage of income from the government. This in and of itself was not a bad thing. But then he explained to his fellow serviceman how that he had included some old scars from a motorcycle accident many years ago (not associated with his military service) in order to receive more income from the government. It made me sad, ...and angry.

In your home, does character matter? Do you expect your spouse to be a person of character? Do you expect your children to be honest and obedient?

The Bible does talk about character. Paul spoke about Timothy saying, "But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel" (Philippians 2:22). Paul had faith in Timothy because he had proven himself to be trustworthy.

Romans 5:3-4 says, "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" On the other hand, listen to Paul's description of poor character.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them." (Romans 1:28-32)

A person of poor character will make a poor son or daughter, a poor husband or wife, a poor employee, a poor boss, a poor friend. The service veteran mentioned earlier also said that he had had many problems, and if his boss had not been a fellow veteran he would have been fired from his job as a policeman.

Do you think that character is important for the policemen who patrol and protect our property and lives? Should character be important for those who make our laws?

Is Character important in your life? Determine in your own heart to be a person of godly character, a person who is trustworthy and faithful. You will feel better about yourself. And God will love you for it.

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