

# How to Build a Good Character

by Dee Bowman

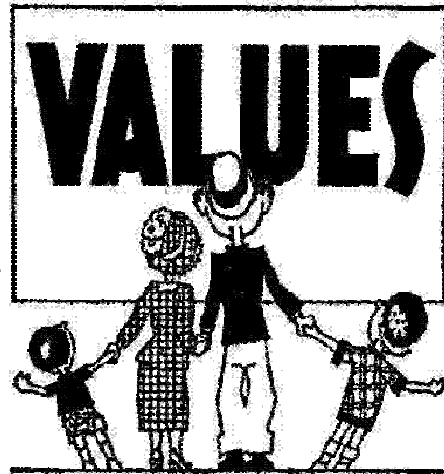
Character is the accumulation of qualities that distinguishes one person from another. Character is not just one single trait, but the accumulation of all a person is, the sum total of all his traits.

Someone has suggested that reputation is what others think us to be, character is what God knows us to be.

How does a person develop and maintain a good character?

**By getting in touch with yourself.** Aristotle was not far off the mark when he suggested that one should “know thyself.” Personal integrity is the key to developing a good character. We have to ascertain and admit to what we need in order to form a good character. In order to know where you’re going, you must first realize where you are. “He that speaketh truth in his heart”—that’s necessary to the development of a good character (see **Psalm 15:1-2**).

**By a constant contact with God.** It is He who defines what is a good character, for it is He who has defined what is good in the first place. His word is not only an expression of Who and What He is, but a revelation of how we can become like Him, or be a “partaker of the divine nature” (**2 Peter 1:4**). His word tells us which way to go. A man of character does not walk just anywhere, but “his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law doth he meditate both day and night” (**Psalm 1:2**). “Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy word” (**Psalm 119:9**). A man’s character is developed by paying due attention to where he is going, to his path of pursuit, and that means a constant contact with the Father.



**By accumulating—a little at a time—the right pieces of holiness.** Holiness is not some huge characteristic (notice the word, please) that a person somehow suddenly develops, but rather the piecing together of small bits and pieces of goodness and piety. Small habits—those little acts of kindness and goodness—are what define a person’s character. Holiness helps to define a man’s character by setting him apart from the trivial dross of life; it is observed in his habitual acts of goodness. Holiness illustrates in one’s life the character of God. “But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation” (**1 Peter 1:15**).

**By regular exposure to right influences.** One of the ways we develop good character is by observing and associating with people whom we know to be of good character. Time spent with a good person will increase your chances of having being good yourself. “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” (**Hebrews 10:24**). We need each other. What one man lacks, another man has. What another has, one man lacks. “Be thou an example of the believers” is good advice, and to find and follow those who set good examples helps to formulate right courses and plan right avenues of pursuit. Character is helped considerably by associating with those who have it.

**By looking forward to the reward.** Character and hope run on the same track. One who has an abiding trust in God and His word will build the kind of character that assures for him an eventual heavenly home. “Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that worketh righteousness,” we are told (**Psalm 15:2**). Those who have placed a high value and importance on a well-orchestrated life are fit for an entrance “into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?” (**2 Peter 1:11**). Our hope helps us see the need for a holy character by connecting us to that which has the highest quality and value—eternal life.

Please be advised—the absence of these things in our lives will result in our having a distorted view of what is important in life, and cause us to place emphasis and enthusiasm on the wrong things.



**Bonnie May** had successful kidney transplant 1/13 at UAB and is recovering nicely. Please keep she and Ben in your prayers

**Carla Williamson**, Cameron's wife and daughter-in-law of Doug & Marsha Williamson, is finally scheduled for her kidney transplant on Feb. 22, 2013. Her mother, Charlotte Robertson, is the donor. Please remember them in your daily prayers as well as the surgeons who will be involved in this serious procedure. In all things, GOD's will be done!

**Jim Keith...** Had surgery to remove kidney stones on Friday January 18 at UAB in Birmingham.

**Joyce Johnston** ...Battling continued health problems.

### Leading in Worship

#### **Sunday Morning Worship**

Coordinators: Ragan Ingram / Jim Keith  
Ushers: Bud Porter / Ragan Ingram  
Announcements: John Burch  
Scripture: John Humphries  
Lead Singing: Mike Howard  
1st Prayer: Harold Mustin  
Preaching: Marshall McDaniel  
Closing Prayer: Jess Hart  
Sound System: Jerry Hensley

LORD'S Supper Preside John Burch

Bread Cup

John Demas Eric Bradford  
Mel Ott Dan Robinson  
Doug Williamson John Williamson

#### **Sunday Evening Worship**

Announcements: John Burch  
Scripture: Daniel Jones  
Lead Singing: Bill Knighten  
1st Prayer: Paul Puckett  
Preaching: Marshall McDaniel  
Lord's Supper: Curt Williamson  
Closing Prayer: Bob Trefethen  
Sound System: Jerry Hensley

#### **LORD'S Supper Preparation**

01/20 Betty Burch 01/27 Carrie Burks  
02/03 Nancy Cobia

#### **Wednesday Bible Study**

Announcements: John Burch  
Lead Singing: John Humphries  
1st Prayer: Gary McDaniel  
Invitation: Ragan Ingram  
Closing Prayer: John Burch  
Sound System: Bob Trefethen

#### **Count Contribution**

Daniel Jones Ragan Ingram  
Chris Lloyd

### **To our visitors:**

- The people who assemble at Perry Hill Road are simply a group of Christians who belong to Christ and are devoted to serving God.
- Our aim is to glorify God by following the Bible, His inspired word, which is our only guide in worship and service.
- Our commitment is to preach Christ, who is man's only hope for eternal life, and live in such a way so that others may see Christ in us.
- We encourage an open study and discussion of the Scriptures in all our Bible classes and extend to all a sincere welcome.
- Personal studies are available upon request.

#### **Schedule of Services**

##### Sunday

Bible Classes 9 AM  
Worship 10 AM  
Evening 5 PM

##### Wednesday

Bible Classes 7 PM

#### *Attendance*

*Sunday AM 126*  
*Sunday Class 95*  
*Sunday PM 102*  
*Wednesday 76*  
*Contribution \$ 4,538*



*Group 1 Meets this month.*

#### **Bible Study Eastdale Retirement Center**

Thursday 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Eastdale Retirement Center

#### **Isaiah study**

Friday's at 8:30 a.m. - Study Isaiah with John Humphries at church building

Jan. 20, 2013

PERRY HILL ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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### **Perry Hill Road Bulletin**

#### **Did You Wash Behind Your Ears?**

If you were to make a list of "Top 10 Mother Quotes," one of them would HAVE to be, "Did you wash behind your ears?" And, if your mother is like mine, regardless of how you responded, she would check. I don't know what she expected to find, but evidently that's one body-area we tend to neglect.



I am pretty sure it's not the small area behind our ears that mothers are concerned about... I think dirt behind the ears might indicate a bigger problem. Maybe we're not taking the whole "bath thing" seriously enough. The back side of the ears is just kind of a litmus test.

I propose to you that there might be some litmus tests which indicate how serious we are about our Christianity. If you were given the responsibility of choosing a litmus test that would indicate how seriously someone is about their commitment to the Lord, what would it be?

My suggestion would be that the consistency of our attendance at every assembly and Bible classes might be a pretty good indicator. Another one might be—do you read your Bible regularly?

It also occurs to me that it's not so much the act of attending every assembly or the act of reading our Bible... it's more about what these things indicate about how seriously we're taking our commitment to the Lord. Check behind your ears.... *Ken Stegall*