

Instilling the Characteristics of Christ in our Daughters

Philippians 1:9-11, 21, 27; 2:1-15, esp. 5-8; 4:4-9

Goal: To live life on earth doing **God's** will; to live eternally with Him in Heaven through Christ. (2:13,14)

Purpose: To BE **Christ**-like, a child (daughter) of The King

Priorities:

1. Know God (The Father; Christ, the Son/the Word; the Holy Spirit)...Bible study, Prayer
2. Responsibility/Privilege: Phil. 4:13 (Strength, work)
3. Growth Maturity/Health: Spiritual, Mental, Physical, Social, Emotional, Functional

Teach: Didactically (Deuteronomy 4:9,10; Psalm 34:11; Psalm 119)

Model Christ-likeness: Philippians 4:9; John 13:15 ["More is Caught than Taught!"]

Use Biblical examples of positive (and negative!) characteristics...

Characteristics

A. Reverence (for God Almighty): high regard, profound respect, honor, love, (genuine)awe/wonder!
Psalm 5:7

B. Respect: to deem worthy of high esteem...for authority

God/Christ/Holy Spirit (Luke 18:4; Matthew 21:37)

Elders of the church (Hebrews 13:17)

Parents (Ephesians 6:1)

Husband (Ephesians 5:33)

Government (Titus 3:10)

"What is Right..." (Romans 12:17)

C. Love: 1 Corinthians 13; Matthew 22:36-40; not just a fleeting feeling, but a feeling which is based on unshakable thought/strong belief that the person is worth your devotion, your caring, and all the behaviors which accompany caring even more for that person than yourself, sacrificially.

D. Gratitude: the state of being thankful, knowing that you are dependent on someone more powerful and loving than yourself to provide your needs...and expressing your thankfulness ungrudgingly. "Gratitude is the beginning of spirituality...." (Colossians 2:7,8; Ephesians 5:20)

E. Humility: Unassuming, unpretentious, meek (NOT weak!); power under control. (Philippians 2:8)

F. Obedience: Acceptance of and compliance with properly established rules. (Philippians 2:8; Ephesians 6:1-3)

G. Discipline/Self-control: To teach/train oneself to restrain impulses and to practice sound judgment. (Colossians 2:5)

H. Submission: To choose to place my own will/wishes beneath that of another out of love or in respect to rank -- not necessarily because the other is better, smarter, or even correct! (Philippians 2; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-9)

I. Grace, graciousness: Unmerited/undeserved favor given because of the caring/love of the giver; treating others, indiscriminately, with kindness and courtesy. (Romans 5:15-21)

J. Service/Servant Role: Jesus, our Example (Luke 2:49, Philippians 2:7)

K. Honesty: (Isaiah 53:9) "No deceit..."

L. Compassion/empathy: To feel for and with another person regarding his pain, circumstances; to try and put yourself in his/her place.... (Matthew 9:36, Colossians 3:12; James 5:11)

M. Wisdom: Knowledge with understanding, discernment. (Luke 2:52; James 1:5; Psalm 111:10, 1 Kings 3:9-12)

N. Discretion: Prudence, cautious reserve, especially in speech; ability to make wise, righteous judgments. (Proverbs 3:21, 11:22; Daniel 2:14)

O. Purity/Modesty: Cleanness of heart, thought, and behavior, characterized by godly, wise, chaste decisions; not provoking unclean ungodly thoughts in others; not seductive. (1 Timothy 4:1; Matthew 5:8; 1 Peter 3:1-4)

P. Integrity: State or quality of being complete; undivided. Staying true to one's belief system without wavering due to pressure or fear. (Psalm 15, 26:1)

Remarkable Biblical Girls, Women who inspire and encourage us in the above characteristics:

Naaman's wife's young Israelite maid: a captive, in a powerful military man's household, compassionate, servant of God in her circumstance (2 Kings 5)

Abigail: Intelligent, beautiful wife of a foolish, evil man who insulted King David and put his household in jeopardy. But she used her wisdom, knowledge, courage, resources, and graciousness to honor David and his requests. God rewarded her and her household greatly. (1 Samuel 25)

Tamar: Young, pure, obedient, beautiful daughter of David; a powerful messenger of truth, righteousness (2 Samuel 13)

Jephthah's daughter: A loving, submissive daughter to an unwise, impulsive judge (Judges 11:29-40)

Deborah: Servant of God and the only female Judge chosen by God; courageous and humble (Judges 4,5)

Miriam: Servant of God and a leader of the Israelite women, sister of Moses and Aaron; helped save Moses from death as a baby; courageous, obedient, devoted, great leadership skills. Flaw: overstepped boundary, but was loved and respected, restored. (Exodus 15, Numbers 12, 20)

Esther: Israelite beauty chosen as queen by King Ahasuerus in Medo-Persian Empire and was wisely counseled by her uncle to be courageous for the sake of her people, so through her brave intervention after prayer and fasting, she risked her life and served God's purpose to save His people. (Esther: one of the 2 books of the Bible which were named for a woman.)

Ruth and Naomi: Daughter-in-law and mother-in-law who loved and served Jehovah and each other, and are in the lineage of Jesus Christ. (Ruth...the other book named for a godly woman.)

Mary: mother of Jesus: Faith, love for Jehovah, purity, obedience, courage, and wisdom were among the virtues which apparently made her the chosen young virgin to mother His son. Not only honor, but tremendous sacrifice and intense suffering and grief were involved in her life of duty to God and His Son. (Luke 1,2)

Elizabeth: Mary's cousin and mother of John the Baptizer; rejoiced with Mary and understood the fulfillment of the prophecies being brought about by God through them. (Luke 1)

Martha: Faithful disciple and friend to Jesus Christ, showing hospitality, generosity, and service, along with her brother, Lazarus, and sister, Mary. (John 11, Luke 10:38)

Mary: Faithful, adoring, disciple, servant, friend to the Lord Jesus who sat at his feet to hear all his words. She was a sister to Martha and Lazarus, all of whom were among his closest friends. (John 11, Luke 10:38-42)

The Poor Widow (not named, but important to be noticed and extolled as an example by Jesus): A woman with no husband to support her but who loved and trusted God to the extent that she gave all that she had to Him. (Mark 12:41-44)

Priscilla: Partnered with her husband, Aquila, and Paul in tent-making, but more importantly, in spreading the gospel of Christ in the early days of the church. She and Aquila also took Apollos aside and taught him "the way of God more accurately." Priscilla demonstrated respect, love, and devotion to God, Jesus Christ, her husband, other Christians in a dignified and pure manner, with humility. She was intelligent, assertive, industrious, and skilled: a "suitable helper." She was mentioned by Paul several times as being a valuable helper in doing God's will. Her manner of serving God in this teaching capacity was clearly acceptable and appreciated by the Lord through what is revealed to us through the Holy Spirit (Acts 18, Romans 16:3)

(...And a host of many other remarkable godly women!!!)