



THE FORMATION OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

GOLDEN TEXT

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

USEFUL PRACTICE

A born-again man has his character transformed by the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 4:17-24

17 - So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

18 - They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

19 - Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20 - That, however, is not the way of life you learned

21 - when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

22 - You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

23 - to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

24 - and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.



GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To show how Christian character is formed.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- **To recognize** character in the reality of man;
- **To show** how the deformation of human character occurred;
- **To explain** the redemption of human character.

INTRODUCTION

This quarter we will have the unique opportunity to study character. Every human being has character, whether they are good or evil, exemplary, unholy or holy. God created man good and perfect, but sin tainted his character. Therefore, everyone needs a spiritual and moral transformation. We will see that only the God of all perfection, through the Son, can transform the character of a person.

I - CHARACTER IN THE REALITY OF MAN

1. What is character?

According to the *Aurélio Dictionary*, character is "the set of qualities (good or bad) of an individual, which determine their conduct and moral conception" (in a free translation). Character is the characteristic that accounts for the action, reaction and maximum expression of personality. It is how each person acts and expresses himself. It is about the principles, values and ethics of each one.

2. Personality and character.

Personality can be defined as being the quality of what is personal. It is our way of being, that is, what distinguishes us from another person. Character is not inherited. It is built through the training we get. Therefore, the Word of God warns: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6).



II-THE DEFORMATION OF HUMAN CHARACTER

1. Fall and human character.

God made man perfect in spiritual, moral, and physical terms. In the divine act of Creation, He said, "Let us make man in our image" (Gen. 1:26). We were created in the "image" and "likeness" of the Creator, so we cannot forget that we reflect the divine glory. If we have a holy character, God will be praised by our actions.

2. Image and likeness of God.

Man was, in his original state, an image, or perfect representation of God. Adam and Eve possessed moral attributes such as love, justice, holiness, righteousness: All in the likeness of God. There is no doubt that in creating man in his "image," and according to his "likeness", God imprinted on him the marks of his holy, loving and just personality.

3. The deformation of human character.

Man was created perfect in all his constitution: spirit, soul and body (1 Thess. 5:23). But when man gave place to the Devil, and disobeyed God, he fell from divine grace. The fall led us to lose our moral resemblance with the Creator.

III- THE REDEMPTION OF HUMAN CHARACTER

1. New birth, transformation of character.

Jesus came into the world to save man from the tragedy of sin and bring him closer to God (John 3:16). Salvation is a divine gift. It is the fruit of divine grace. By faith in Jesus man receives salvation and becomes a new creature, completely transformed: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Cor. 5:17).). The character of those who, by faith, have been born again, is powerfully transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. The Word of God changes character.

Salvation is not only a change of religion, but it involves regeneration (John 3:3,7), justification (Romans 3:24, 5:1, 9, 1 Cor. 6:11), and sanctification (Heb. 12:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:23). In the process of sanctification, we gradually become transformed by the Word of God. The Scriptures have the power to transform man, because they alone can go inside him: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-



edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12).

3. The believer's loving and holy character.

The Christian has as one of his main characteristics love for God and others (Mt 22:34-40). Whoever does not love does not know God, has not yet changed his character and is in darkness (1 John 2: 9,11). Together with love comes sanctification, without which no one will be able to see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). Those who have already experienced the new birth must live blamelessly (1 Thess. 5:23).

CONCLUSION

Our character reflects our principles. As new creatures, we need to display the values of the Kingdom of God. A man saved and redeemed by Christ Jesus has the marks of the Savior on his being and his behavior.