

The supreme test of goodness is not in the greater but in the smaller incidents of our character and practice; not what we are when standing in the searchlight of public scrutiny, but when we reach the firelight flicker of our homes; not what we are when some clarion-call rings through the air, summoning us to fight for life and liberty, but our attitude when we are called to sentry-duty in the gray morning, when the watch-fire is burning low. It is impossible to be our best at the supreme moment if character is corroded and eaten into by daily inconsistency, unfaithfulness, and besetting sin.

F.B. Meyer

Our true character comes out in the way we pray.

Oswald Chambers

Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones.

Phillips Brooks

The virtue of a man ought to be measured, not by his extra-ordinary exertions, but by his everyday conduct.

Blaise Pascal

A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.

C.H. Spurgeon

God does not call all elders to be entrepreneurs, men who begin ministries and build them. Nor does He call all elders to be producers, men who accomplish a great amount of work in the church, although those are worthy things. Neither does He call all of them to be managers, adept at mobilizing others in the Lord's service, although that, too, is a worthy thing. The Lord does, however, call all elders to be godly leaders, men who by their exemplary lives as well as their sound teaching and preaching set a pattern of virtue and devotion to the Lord for other believers to follow.

John MacArthur

Those who teach by their doctrine must teach by their life, or else they pull down with one hand what they build up with the other.

Matthew Henry

Loving Matters

It's What's Inside that Counts

Romans 12:9-21

Introduction: When God chose a young shepherd to be king in Israel, it shocked the leadership. God's answer? *"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."* Character has *always* mattered to God. What we *know* must shape *who we are!* Otherwise, we are only examples of religious hypocrisy. Godly character is the internal fruit of sincere faith in God, even as good works (Living) are its external display.

Catching Up to Paul

The joy of new life: Romans 5:1-11, 20, 21

The privilege of a new way of living: Romans 6: 1-4

A New Way of Living: 12:1,2

Why following Christ makes the most sense: vs. 1

What following Christ looks like: vs. 2

The Call to Character: 12:9

Character matters to God

Godly character may be summarized as Love

Character that Unifies: 12:10-13

Loyal; fervent; hopeful; steadfast; generous

Character that Testifies: 12:14-21

Radically others-centered; radically compassionate; forgiving; peace loving; at rest in God's sovereignty.

A Final Word: 12:21

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Kids Notes

Loving Matters

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. When we use the word "loving" we are talking about:

- A. the manner of life God brings to those in Christ.
- B. loving God and loving people.
- C. the summary term used to describe Christian character.
- D. all of the above.

2. Paul told the Romans that they should never:

- A. take their own revenge.
- B. love one another .
- C. weep with those who weep.
- D. all of the above.

3. The greatest purpose you can find in life:

- A. is to follow Jesus, and obey him joyfully.
- B. is to be a professional athlete.
- C. is to become rich and famous.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: Read Romans 12:9-21. What area do you think your family is especially strong in? How did that come about?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

LOVING _____	TOTAL: _____
CHARACTER _____	_____
EVIL _____	_____
INTENTIONAL _____	_____
PAUL _____	_____
GOOD _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

LOVING CHARACTER ESSENTIAL GOD LEADERSHIP EVIL GOOD
 INTENTIONAL PAUL ROMANS OVERCOME UNIFY TESTIFY NEW
 LIVING SALVATION RESCUE WORTHY CONSPICUOUS LIFE CHURCH
 SPIRIT JESUS CHRIST CROSS FAITH HOLY NORTHPOINT

C C Z L T W S F S G W R K E P J P
 B F H I A N A A A N O V E E F I X
 U J D A A N L R V I R Q D S H I U
 T O U M R V O L D V T X K S C S L
 G S O Z A A N I X O H H R E C U W
 F R I T K E C B T L Y E N N Q O E
 Z T I R I P S T G N D H G T P U S
 U O X J H A Y K E A E O U I V C G
 N L U A P C V F E R O T C A G I P
 L I V I N G U L I D Y H N L F P E
 N O R T H P O I N T U C S I Y S V
 E M O C R E V O K R S U Y F N I
 C R O S S N E W C P S E X L I O L
 K Z R M M S V H Z E C O T O N C M
 O B W H N L H P J C M V D H U K D