



LESSONS FROM 1&2 TIMOTHY

05.28 - YOUR CHARACTER MATTERS

INTRODUCTION

In the third and final week of our *Lessons from 1 & 2 Timothy* series, we defined “character” as a group of traits or qualities about you that are true most of the time. Our character matters because it becomes part of our identity and ultimately motivates why we do what we do. As our character grows in step with Jesus, we will grow both in obedience to God and as a healthy picture of Jesus’ character to a watching world.

DISCUSSION

1. Pastor Chip taught us that, as Christians, our character is only a part of our identity. As a result of stepping over the Faith Line, we are now “children of God” (John 1:12-13), which means our identity belongs to Jesus. What Christ-like character traits do you notice about people who belong to Jesus?
2. The world is looking to see if Jesus is real and if following him actually makes any difference in the lives of people who claim to follow him. Does the first impression of your life to the world reveal a character like Jesus’? Why or why not?
3. As we grow in our character, we’ll continue to discover areas of our lives that don’t align with God’s character. How can you “close the gaps” that are exposed between what you believe and how you actually live when you become aware of them? How might you need help?
4. Our relationship with money is a character mirror. Money isn’t evil itself, but our relationship to it can reveal where our heart and allegiance lies. When you “hold up the mirror” to take an honest look at your financial situation, what do you see? What are your choices with your money revealing about the state of your character? What do you need to celebrate and what might you need to repent and surrender?

APPLICATION

Self-awareness is a big step in growing in our character. This week, spend time:

- **Asking God to reveal the true state of your character.** Celebrate what God has grown and where you need help. Don’t hide or pretend – surrender and ask for help.
- **In Galatians 5:22-25.** These verses list “fruit of the Spirit” – what comes out of you because of your relationship with God. Ask for God to grow these in you and instill them in your mind and heart as core values.
- **With a trusted friend or mentor.** Take a deep breath, and ask them to tell you about your character. Some of it may be difficult to hear, but find someone you trust who loves you enough to reveal both the positives and negatives of your outward first impression to help you grow.