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CHARACTER BUILDING

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7). Sowing of character seed thoughts starts in early childhood. The cultivation of positive qualities results in a constructive wholesome character. Negative qualities weaken and may debase character. “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs. 22:6). The life of Jesus is the ideal example. “And Jesus increased in wisdom [MENTALLY] and stature [PHYSICALLY], and in favor with God [SPIRITUALLY] and man” [SOCIALY] (Luke 2:52). At age 12 He was about His “Father’s business” (Luke 2:49). His mind and heart were filled with words of the Scriptures, which He quoted to meet temptations (Matthew 4:3-10). His teachings are not a series of “thou shalt nots,” but a perfect pattern of positive instructions. Those, who follow Christ as “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” and train their children to do likewise, will find in His teachings the eternal solution to every human problem. His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5, 6, 7) provides the foundation of Christian character. His Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) is the acme of Christian living.

“FOR AS HE THINKETH IN HIS HEART, SO IS HE.” (Proverbs 23:7)

FACTORS IN CHARACTER BUILDING

POSITIVE and *Negative* Qualities

ABSTINENCE (Leviticus 10:9) – *Indulgence* (Proverbs 23:29:32)
 ALTRUISM (Luke 10:33-35) – *Egoism* (Luke 10:30-32)
 AMBITION (Matthew 25:14-23) – *Laziness* (Matthew 25:24-30)
 APPROVING (Mathew 26:10-13) – *Reproving* (Matthew 26:6-9)
 CHARITY (1 Corinthians 13:1-13) – *Ungenerosity* (Matthew 19:20-26)
 CHASTITY (Matthew 5:8) – *Wickedness* (Proverbs 28:1)
 CHEERFULNESS (Psalm 100) – *Despondency* (Job 10:1)
 CONCENTRATION (Philippians 3:13, 14) – *Inattention* (Proverbs 5:13)
 CONSCIENCE [good] (Acts 24:16) – *Conscience [guilty]* (John 8:9)
 CONSTANCY (1 Corinthians 15:58) – *Fickleness* (James 1:6-8)
 CONTENTMENT (1 Timothy 6:6-8) – *Dissatisfaction* (Psalm 5:13)
 COURAGE (Psalm 118:6) – *Cowardice* (Proverbs 29:25)
 DECISION (Psalm 119:30) – *Indecision* (Matthew 6:24)
 DILIGENCE (2 Peter 1:10) – *Slothfulness* (Proverbs 18:9)
 ECONOMY (John 6:12) – *Extravagance* (Luke 15:13)
 EFFICIENCY (Matthew 7:20-25) – *Carelessness* (Matthew 7:26, 27)
 ENDURANCE (Matthew 24:13) – *Weakness* (Psalm 6:2)
 ENERGY (Ecclesiastes 9:10) – *Inaction* (John 4:35)
 ENTHUSIASM (Deuteronomy 6:5) – *Apathy* (Joshua 18:3)
 FAITH (Matthew 14:22-29) – *Unbelief* (Matthew 14:30-32)
 FORGIVING (Matthew 18:21-27) – *Unmerciful* (Matthew 18:28-35)

FORTITUDE (Judges 7:7-20) – *Faltering* (Judges 7:2-6)
FRANKNESS (Matthew 26:21-25) – *Deceitfulness* (Matthew 26:47-50)
FRIENDLINESS (Proverbs 17:17) – *Enmity* (Proverbs 25:21, 22)
GENTLENESS (2 Timothy 2:24, 25) – *Harshness* (2 Timothy 2:23, 24)
GRATITUDE (Luke 17:12-16) – *Ingratitude* (Luke 17:17)
HEROISM (Deuteronomy 31:6) – *Fearfulness* (Matthew 8:26)
HONESTY (Romans 12:17) – *Dishonesty* (Jeremiah 17:10, 11)
HOPE (Romans 8:24, 25) – *Despair* (Proverbs 13:12)
HUMILITY (Luke 18:13, 14) – *Haughtiness* (Luke 18:10-12)
INDUSTRIOUSNESS (Proverbs 6:6-8) – *Idleness* (Proverbs 6:9)
JUSTICE (Proverbs 21:3) – *Injustice* (Proverbs 22:16)
KINDNESS (2 Samuel 9:1-7) – *Unkindness* (Luke 6:29)
LIBERALITY (Luke 21:1-4) – *Stinginess* (1 Timothy 6:10)
LOVE (1 John 4:16-19) – *Hatred* (1 John 4:20)
LOYALTY (Deuteronomy 7:9) – *Disloyalty* (John 6:66)
MEEKNESS (1 Timothy 6:11) – *Pretension* (1 Timothy 6:17)
MERCIFUL (Matthew 5:7) – *Cruelty* (Luke 10:30)
MODESTY (Genesis 24:65) – *Shamefulness* (Jeremiah 4:30)
OBEDIENCE (Ephesians 6:1-3) – *Disobedience* (1 Samuel 12:15)
OPTIMISM (Romans 8:28) – *Pessimism* (Psalm 13:1, 2)
ORDER (1 Corinthians 14:40) – *Confusion* (James 3:16)
PATIENCE (Hebrews 10:36) – *Impatience* (John 6:43)
PATRIOTISM (Romans 13:1-7) – *Treachery* (2 Samuel 3:27)
PEACEABLE (Romans 12:18) – *Quarrelsome* (Colossians 3:13)
PERSEVERANCE (1 Thessalonians 5:21) – *Instability* (Jeremiah 2:36)
POLITENESS (1 Peter 3:8) – *Impoliteness* (1 Kings 12:13)
REFINEMENT (Isaiah 48:10) – *Coarseness* (Proverbs 28:14)
SELF-CONFIDENCE (Philippians 4:13) – *Dependence* (John 15:5)
SELF-CONTROL (Matthew 27:12-14) – *Impulsiveness* (Proverbs 25:8)
SELF-DENIAL (Matthew 16:24) – *Indulgence* (Proverbs 23:20, 21)
SELF-RESPECT (1 Timothy 4:14-16) – *Debasement* (Isaiah 57:9)
SINCERITY (Ephesians 6:24) – *Hypocrisy* (Matthew 23:28)
SYMPATHY (Proverbs 19:17) – *Antipathy* (Proverbs 21:13)
TEMPERANCE (1 Corinthians 9:25) – *Intemperance* (Isaiah 5:11)
TRUTHFULNESS (Proverbs 12:19) – *Falsehood* (Proverbs 12:22)
UNSELFISHNESS (Genesis 13:9) – *Selfishness* (Genesis 4:9)
VENERATION (1 Chronicles 29:10-13) – *Irreverence* (1 Corinthians 11:22)
VIRTUE (1 Timothy 4:12) – *Impurity* (James 4:8)
WISDOM (Proverbs 16:16) – *Foolishness* (Proverbs 19:3)

How to become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4-8)

“FINALLY, BRETHREN, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE HONEST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE JUST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE PURE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT; IF THERE BE ANY VIRTUE, AND IF THERE BE ANY PRAISE, THINK ON THESE THINGS.” (Philippians 4:8)
