

## STRONG IN CHARACTER

(Phil 2:13 KJV) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. (Phil 2:14 KJV) Do all things without murmurings and disputings: (Phil 2:15 KJV) That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; (Phil 2:16 KJV) Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

(2 Cor 3:2 KJV) Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

(Mat 5:16 KJV) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1. BE STRONG IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT.
2. TRUE STRENGTH IS IN STRENGTH OF CHARACTER.
  1. *Reputation is who people say you are.*
  2. *Self-esteem is who you think you are.*
  3. *Character is what you really are.*
3. WE LIVE IN AN AMORAL SOCIETY.
  1. *Defective character.*
  2. *Get what you want at any cost--even the cost of trampling on others.*
  3. *The end justifies the means.*
  4. *We are to be the light of the world.*
4. SOME IMPORTANT CHARACTER TRAITS.
  1. Morality.
  2. Honesty, integrity, truthfulness.
  3. Respect.
  4. Loyalty, faithfulness, trustworthiness.
  5. Courage.
  6. Endurance, perseverance.
  7. Resilience (the ability to bounce back).

5. TEN COMMANDMENTS MAKE UP GOD'S ETERNAL MORAL LAW.

1. *God=s laws.*
  1. Laws of governing.
  2. Ceremonial laws.
  3. Moral laws.
2. *Moral laws cannot produce salvation; only Jesus can.*
3. *Moral laws do reflect the character of God.*
4. *Moral laws serve as basis of righteous behavior and conduct.*
5. *God has instituted rules of order.*
  1. Family.
  2. Nation.
  3. Church.
6. *The law is summed up in loving God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.*
  1. (Mat 22:37 KJV) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (Mat 22:38 KJV) This is the first and great commandment. (Mat 22:39 KJV) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Mat 22:40 KJV) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
  2. (James 2:8 KJV) If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

6. RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.

1. *No other gods.* (Exo 20:3 KJV) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
  1. Should be expected to love God and give Him first priority in all aspects of life. Only the true God should be worshiped and served.
    1. (Psa 37:4 KJV) Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
    2. (Mat 6:33 KJV) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
  2. Expected to obey the clear teachings of God's word without question. (John 14:15 KJV) If ye love me, keep my commandments.
  3. Blessings of God contingent upon obedience.

1. If you obey me...all these blessings shall come upon you (Deut. 28).
  2. (Isa 1:19 KJV) If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:
2. ***No idolatry.***
1. **Scriptures.**
    1. (Exo 20:4 KJV) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: (Exo 20:5 KJV) Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God...
    2. (Rom 1:21 KJV) Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Rom 1:22 KJV) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, (Rom 1:23 KJV) And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. (Rom 1:24 KJV) Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: (Rom 1:25 KJV) Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. (Rom 1:26 KJV) For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: (Rom 1:27 KJV) And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. (Rom 1:28 KJV) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
  2. An idol is anything that is a substitute for God.
  3. Should not employ objects of worship such as statues or pictures.
  4. Abstain from anything demonic or pagan.
  5. Shun away from occultic practices in religion such as astrology, fortune telling, spiritism, witchcraft, Zen, transcendental meditation, yoga, Buddhism, etc.
  6. Worshiping the creature more than the creator.
    1. Nature.
    2. The human body.
3. ***No irreverent use of God's Name.*** (Exo 20:7 KJV) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh

his name in vain.

4. ***Regular worship.***

1. (Exo 20:8 KJV) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
2. (Heb 10:25 KJV) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

7. RELATIONSHIP TO NEIGHBOR.

1. ***Respect for Parents.***

1. (Exo 20:12 KJV) Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
2. Should give same respect to all those in authority.
  1. Lack of respect for authorities.
    - (1) Children are not respectful because it is not demanded of them.
    - (2) Respect must be taught and demonstrated.
  2. (Heb 13:17 KJV) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.
  3. (1 Tim 2:1 KJV) I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; (1 Tim 2:2 KJV) For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

2. ***Respect for Life. No murder or hatred.***

1. (Exo 20:13 KJV) Thou shalt not kill.
2. (1 John 3:15 KJV) Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

3. ***Moral purity.*** (Exo 20:14 KJV) Thou shalt not commit adultery.

1. Christians are not to engage in any sexual relation outside of marriage--including premarital sex, homosexuality, incest, adultery, etc.
2. We are to flee youthful lusts; should not have sexually explicit materials.
3. Conduct self in proper manner in presence of opposite sex.
4. Should not put ourselves in a compromising situation.

4. ***Respect for property.***

1. **Scriptures.**
  1. (Exo 20:15 KJV) Thou shalt not steal.
  2. (Eph 4:28 KJV) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.
2. Unfair business practices, failure to provide adequate work for one's wages, goofing off on jobs for which one is paid.
3. Taking care of borrowed property; carelessness which results in damage to someone else's property.
5. ***No lying.*** (Exo 20:16 KJV) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
  1. Maintain reputation for honesty and integrity in all things, especially in matters affecting the reputation of other people.
  2. Should refrain from gossip and hearsay.
  3. **Not being deceitful.** (2 Cor 4:2 KJV) But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
6. ***No covetousness.*** (Exo 20:17 KJV) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.
  1. **Definitions.**
    1. 4123. pleonektes, pleh-on-ek'-tace; from G4119 and G2192; holding (desiring) more, i.e. eager for gain (avaricious, hence a defrauder):--covetous.
    2. 4124. pleonexia, pleh-on-ex-ee'-ah; from G4123; avarice, i.e. (by impl.) fraudulency, extortion:--covetous (-ness) practices, greediness.
  2. A form of idolatry worship; worship of mammon.
  3. Attitude toward material and fleshly possessions.
  4. Lust of other things.