

## Why is Character so Important?

### Definitions

Personality and character are two sides of the same coin. Personality is given. Character is formed.

#### PERSONALITY

- Personality is the basic building block of who we are, and is focused around preferences.
- Our personality is 'value neutral'. One type of personality isn't 'better' than another, just different.
- Our personality can be polished like a pearl, but not changed very much. Therefore the key is growing self-awareness (maturity) which helps us understand our preferences and how they affect others.

#### CHARACTER

- Character is the aggregate of the distinctive qualities characteristic of an individual.
- Character contains a value judgement; you can be a person of good or bad character.
- As Christians we believe God wants to grow us in Christ-like character, in qualities such as godliness, integrity, humility, servant-heartedness.
- With character we need to be humble about our strengths and prayerful about our weaknesses, allowing Christ to transform us.
- Character will always reveal itself: in the small things; when under pressure; when in private.

### Quote Unquote

'Everybody thinks of changing humanity. Nobody thinks of changing themselves.'

Leo Tolstoy

'Character is life lived in relationship with God; it is about being the person God intends you to be for the sake of the people whom God brings across your path. People of character become leaders whether they hold a position of leadership or not.'

Walter Wright

'Your character is essentially the sum of your habits. It is how you habitually act.'

John Maxwell

'I've seen too many leaders who have that formidable combination of competence and ambition but lack integrity and they succeed only in the short term, if that. I call them "destructive achievers" and they are dangerous.'

Warren Bennis