

Perspectives - Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. In the evangelical community we are not doing that well developing character. If you teach an individual management skills without developing character, you simply enable the person to be a better rip-off artist.

B. We have never determined what we want to develop. First we should determine what we want to develop and then develop what we have determined.

II. Characteristics essential for developing character.

1. A rule to measure how much the Spirit of God has been given freedom to develop you.

2. Yardsticks to measure what it is you are seeking to develop in the life of your disciples.

A. Persistence.

1. Endurance in the Greek means to hold up courageously under fire.

2. Endurance is the key to leadership.

a. The person who faces a problem and caves.

b. The person who faces criticism and caves.

1) Most of us are so insecure with our relationship with Jesus Christ that we are more influenced by what the Christian community says than what Jesus says.

c. The person who faces opposition and fails.

d. The person who hangs in through all issues to see the completion of the objective ultimately becomes the leader.

1) Personal example: running short distances vs. long distances. The Christian life is not the hundred yard dash.

2) Christians must learn to develop the "second wind" because the Christian life is running cross country, not track.

3. The difference between winners and losers is the formation of winning habits.

B. Resistance.

1. Persistence has to do with attitude; resistance has to do with actions.

2. Resistance must take force against opposition and criticism, not ideas in this context.

a. Discouragement is leukemia of the spirit. Harry Truman said, “If you can’t stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen.”

b. There is no credit to the one who endures what one deserves, but if you suffer for good when you do it that is commendable and supernatural. (1 Peter 2:20)

3. Leadership is the process of developing a thick skin and a thin heart.

C. Servant hood.

1. Passage to study: Matthew 20:4.

2. Kicking people out of the nest is good discipleship.

D. Modeling.

1. Modeling is the greatest unconscious form of modeling.

a. Joshua had his Moses.

b. Saul had his Barnabus.

c. The disciples had Jesus.

d. Mark becomes “profitable” for Paul through Barnabus.

2. Verses to consider: Philippians 3:17; 4:9.

3. The reality is jarring with the phrase: “follow me as I follow Christ.”

a. Your disciples do what you do—we must make sure we are doing what we ask of them and what Christ asks of us.

F. Self-mastery.

1. If we only had six months to live we ought to go on doing what we are doing; otherwise, we ought to ask serious questions about what we are doing.

2. We must trim the excess baggage of our living—we need very little to survive.

3. The real decisions are between that which is good and that which is better—between that which is better and that which is best.

G. A private life.

1. It is often hard to balance between the private life and the public life.

a. No one can do enough for others without being alone at times.

b. A person who is strong in public is a person who is stronger in private.

c. A person who is strong visibly is strong invisibly.

2. Any executive who is not at least spending fifteen percent of his time thinking is failing to lead.

H. Confidence.

1. The number one problem is a lack of confidence—there is an abundance of gifts, but an inability to see them.

a. Personal example: a student with the highest IQ lacked confidence because of his father.

b. Recommends *Failure: the Back Door to Success* by Erwin Lutzer.

2. One of the hardest things to do is say “no” because most people have an uneducated conscience.

a. You don’t have to do everything that you are capable of doing.

b. Say no to something every day to practice.

I. Teachability.

1. We teach discipleship as if it was something that all were not partaking in.

J. Positive attitude.

1. Time erodes the spirit, and we develop a spirit of bitterness.

a. The conditions fail to meet our expectations.

b. Personal example: man who deals with anger.

2. There are many bitter people in the ministry because they are working for the wrong person.

a. We end up believing Satan more than God.

3. The therapy for bitterness is thanksgiving.

K. Your capacity to believe God.

1. The thing that was uppermost in the mind of Jesus during the training of the disciples was their ability to believe him.

2. What is there in your life that you are trusting God for that he alone can do?—this question is foundational because it draws us out of our comfort zone.

3. Some of us have such a small view of God that he really has a hard time getting into our ministry.

III. Question and Answer.

A. Question: What is the relationship between family development and leadership?

1. Answer: There is a direct relationship between the two. Therefore, the Scripture relates them together.

B. Question: What are some other suggestions for developing personal confidence?

1. Answer: The best form of leadership training is the mentor/apprentice one. We need one-on-one development that is natural and authentic. Confidence is something that builds gradually—we must share with our disciples our own failures to build them up.

Application Questions

1. Which of the eleven characteristics of character stands out to you? Explain.

2. Pick one of the characteristics that you are weakest in and define it in your own words. What steps will you take to begin applying this to your life?

3. Is there something in your own life that you are trusting God for that only he could accomplish? If so, what is it? If not, what can you trust God for that only he could provide?
