

DNA Culture- Christian Character

What do people think about us when they meet us?

1. Outward focused – Selfless Person

It is not just about us being blessed. God wants to raise up a generation of men and women who are looking beyond their needs/wants and meeting the needs of the world around them.

As people who name the name of Christ we need to be looking at ways in which we can be servants...**"The son of man did not come to the earth to be served but to serve, and lay down his life as a ransom for many."**

Philippians 2:4 "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

"We never graduate from serving. It is not a season, it is a lifestyle"

Jesus commanded love you neighbor. How can we make disciples of people that we are not interacting with?

The Christian life is all about "preferring one another."

2. Authentic

People are looking for authentic Christians who live what they believe. Your life is the best message you will ever preach...what is it saying??

God is more interested in your eternity than your reputation.

Personality can open doors for you, but only Character can keep them open.

Romans 2:21 "You therefore who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say do not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor Idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For the name of God is blasphemed among the gentiles because of you."

“The largest cause of atheism in the world today is Christians...who acknowledge Jesus with their lip’s and then walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle...that is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.” DC Talk

“I preach the gospel everyday....sometimes I use words”

St Francis of Assisi

Un-churched people become disillusioned because the mindsets they are trying to escape are found existing in the church.

People in the world are looking for “doer’s of the word” and not just hearer’s.

3. Faithful

In a world that is getting increasingly less faithful, Christians need to be setting a standard for faithfulness. Faithfulness can not be tested in the presence of authority. Faithfulness can only be tested when authority is not there to witness it. Faithfulness is not faithfulness until you are faced with a temptation to be unfaithful...it is easy to be faithful when you are in agreement but God is looking for Christians to be faithful!!

Areas in which God is calling us to be faithful:

a. Our relationship with God

“You will have no God’s before me” **Exodus 20:3**

b. Marriage

“Let your fountain be blessed and rejoice with the wife of your youth...always be enraptured with her love” **Proverbs 5:18**

c. Friendships

“A friend is loving at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”
Proverbs 17:17

Friendship is not tested until there is adversity.

d. Finances

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse....”
Malachi 3:10

e. Church

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish in the courts of our God” **Psalms 92:13**

f. Our time

“Redeem the time”

4. Big spirited/ gracious/embrace unity

Psalm 133:1 ‘How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity”

Nothing anybody can ever do to you will require more grace than God has already given you. The Lords Prayer, “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.”

Keep short accounts. Get along with others. Have a spirit of co-operation. Don't be a person who causes strife. Avoid arguments and quarrels. Choose to believe the best.

If Christians can't extend grace to one another what hope do we have in saving a broken, hurting world.

Don't look for contention because you'll find it!! “A wise man/woman builds her house, a foolish man/woman tears it down with her hands”

5. Teachable

Proverbs 3:11 “My son do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest his correction, for whom the Lord love he chastens.”

The biggest reason people leave churches today is because they have been challenged to change a habit/lifestyle/belief and cannot handle being corrected...instead of seeing it as a tool to improve their lives they take it as a personal attack on their character.

We never arrive while we're alive.

6. Heart after God

Psalm 27:4, 8 “One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek; That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord. When you said, “Seek my face,” My heart said to you “Your face Lord I will seek.”

King David knew that in order to carry the character of God he must know God and be known by Him. We get a heart for God by spending time in His presence, reading his word and spending time with His people.

7. Positive

1 Thessalonians 4:16 “Rejoice always.”

Psalm 27:13 "I would have lost heart unless I believed I would see the goodness of God in the land of the living"
Don't fall into the belief that there is nothing that can be done to turn your situation around.

As Christians we live should live with hope. There is no reason to be negative. God is on the throne and "He makes all things work together for those who love Him and are called according to His purposes."

8. Wisdom

There is a difference between intelligence and wisdom...men and women with the character of God should be seeking after wisdom.

A person can have the best intentions and still make the worst mistakes if they don't have wisdom.

Proverbs 4:7 "Wisdom is supreme, therefore get wisdom".
Those who get wisdom are enjoying it's fruit. Those who don't have it spend a lot of time confused frustrated and beating their heads against a wall.

King Solomon understood that wisdom should be valued far above anything else....favor, wealth and long life were all part of the package when Solomon received wisdom from the Lord.

When people have problems they usually pray for a miracle.

"A miracle will get you out of a problem but a lack of wisdom will reproduce the problem".

-Ps Kevin Gerald

Intelligence is learned but wisdom is given

James 1:5 "Those who lack wisdom let them ask the Lord of it and it will be given to them liberally".

In times of crisis the world should be able to come to the church for counsel and wisdom.