

## Developing Christian Character

**New leaders have tremendous potential to be the next generation of church leaders, but for many, biblical character development was not a foundational part of growing up. Pastor Philip J. Rasmussen, vice president of church relations and spiritual formation at Northwest University, draws on his experience working closely with pastors and students to outline the problems to developing the next generation of church leaders—as well as solutions. He knows how concerned church leaders are with finding qualified ministerial replacements, but he also knows most students have not been prepared to live a life in ministry. If they don't get the guidance they need, a shortage of qualified individuals looms on the horizon. Lead Strong starts with the premise that a person must fully embrace the Fruit of Spirit as the vital elements for character development. When the Fruit of Spirit is present in a believer's life, essential leadership qualities will naturally flow as the leader influences people. This book can be used for ministry training sessions, small group studies, or one's individual devotional development. Its purpose is to reveal the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and to clearly describe the fruit that His presence should bear in one's character.**

**The human population's annual total consumption is not sustainable by one planet. This unprecedented situation calls for a reform of religious cultures that promote a large ideal family size. Many observers assume that Christianity is inevitably part of this problem because it promotes "family values" and statistically, in America and elsewhere, has a higher birthrate than nonreligious people. This book explores diverse ideas about human reproduction in the church past and present. It investigates an extreme fringe of U.S. Protestantism, including the Quiverfull movement, that use Old Testament "fruitful" verses to support natalist ideas explicitly promoting higher fecundity. It also challenges the claim by some natalists that Martin Luther in the 16th century advocated similar ideas. This book argues that natalism is inappropriate as a Christian application of Scripture, especially since rich populations' total footprints are detrimental to biodiversity and to human welfare. It explores the ancient cultural context of the Bible verses quoted by natalists. Challenging the assumption that religion normally promotes fecundity, the book finds surprising exceptions among early Christians (with a special focus on Saint Augustine) since they advocated spiritual fecundity in preference to biological fecundity. Finally the book uses a hermeneutic lens derived from Genesis 1, and prioritising the modern problem of biodiversity, to provide ecological interpretations of the Bible's "fruitful" verses.**

**Your reputation is what people think about you (Proverbs 22:1). It is what people see about your life. It is the example you set for others. It is important to be a good example and have a good reputation (Matthew 5:13-16). On the other hand, your character is what you are on the inside. Character is who you really are. It is who you are when no one is looking. Timothy had consistently shown his "proven character" (Philippians 2:22, NKJV). Other versions (ESV and NASV for example) refer to this as "proven worth." It is the type of life you have regularly lived and it reveals, in the long term, your real value to the Lord. Reputation is what people think you are. Character is what God knows you are. Your character is a matter of choice, not of birth. You can become what you want to be. You can change parts of your character that are not what you want them to be. If you do not treat others the way you should, you can change. If you are not morally pure, you can be. If your speech is improper, it can be different. If you need an attitude adjustment, you can do that too. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. As God looks at your heart, what does He see? Is He pleased? Is He saddened? Does He see someone who is trying to be like Christ, or someone who is living like the world? Samuel picked David, a man after God's own heart. Does that phrase describe you? It could, if you decide you want that. Will you resolve in your heart to do this? Will you be purer in heart? Will you develop and grow your character to be what God wants you to be? You can decide to do that right now. Will you?**

**Developing Christian Character**

**Patience**

**A Mind Like His**

**Virtuous Minds**

**How Good Are We?**

**Developing a Christian Character**

This book is about how to read and study the Bible. This book is about getting the non-Christian to learn how to study the Bible, and this book is for the Pastor and theologian who needs to have their "refresh" button pressed. This book is in fact for anybody desiring to know the Book of ages. If you are new to the Word or are a seasoned teacher. If you do not know where to begin, or you have tried countless times and feel overwhelmed and frustrated, this is the book for you!

Robert Strand, one of the most successful authors in the CBA market, believes that an understanding of the qualities of a Christian deserve a close look. To that end, Strand has developed a nine-book study series on the fruits of the spirit, emphasizing not only that a properly-balanced Christian life must include love, joy, peace, patience, etc., but that God will judge us on our willingness to incorporate them into our daily walk. Written in Strand's famous storytelling style, each book in the series includes study questions and special insights.

An indispensable companion to the Your Gifts Spiritual Gifts Survey, this book takes an in-depth look at each of the nine team gifts. Perfect for use in small groups, this dynamic new book reveals steps to nurture and activate your gift in

practical ways. You will learn about the potential roadblocks that can inhibit your gift, as well as pitfalls to avoid going forward. God created you with purpose and passion—learn how you can take the gifts He has given you and use them to advance His Kingdom in ways you never imagined. It's time to go deeper—it's time to discover God's unique design for you, and become the person He created you to be.

Developing Positive Christian Character

Building Christian Character

The Church and Slavery

Living a Connected Life

Renovation of the Heart

The Basic Essentials of a Living Faith

*Over the next five to ten years, it's predicted that more than 50,000 strategic ministry leadership positions are going to be filled. Who will these leaders be? And more importantly, who will prepare them for these positions? Mentoring Leaders offers a unique angle on what it takes to prepare transformational leaders for today's church. While addressing the different phases of leadership development and mentoring, as well as the characteristics of a dynamic and effective leader, Carson Pue focuses on the element of spiritual development. The invaluable insights and wisdom found in this book will give emerging leaders new strength to follow their calling as it helps them sharpen their vision, shape their values, and share their leadership adventures.*

Teaching Outline + Study Guide for Developing Christian Character

*Horace Bushnell on Christian Character Development examines the issue of character development in the speculative works and sermons of Horace Bushnell, in relation to Orthodox Calvinist, Unitarian, and contemporary Catholic considerations of the same. The author emphasizes the practical purpose of theological investigation to promote the universal cause of personal growth and development. He systematically presents Bushnell's thought on that popular issue by way of a critical analysis of his language theory, his rhetoric, and his understanding of theology as a kind of persuasive art. Bushnell proposed a 'theological alternative' to the typical understanding of character development (conversion) espoused by Orthodox Calvinism, Unitarianism, and secular humanism. His 'alternative' incorporated the strengths of those historically influential bodies of thought and compensated for what he thought to be deficient in them. In this book, the reader is introduced to a theology that is remarkable for its insights into human interiority, its soundness as a proposal for wholesome human living, and its ecumenical spirit.*

Reproducible Work Sheets

Understanding God's Role and Yours

Discover God's unique design for you

Intensive Discipling Course: Building Godly Character

Friendship

Your Gifts

*Godly character stands as the most prized goal in Christian education. More than merely teaching a child or anyone else to do and to know about certain things, a God-centered education involves what a person is. It aims to bring forth a life at-one with God, consumed by His love, filled with His truth, submitted to His purpose, conformed to His image. Building Christian Character has been designed to help parents disciple children (and churches disciple believers); and for over 20 years it has done just that, revolutionizing the lives of thousands of families and churches. It has done so by providing tools to help craft the different facets of the jewel of character as the child or disciple runs the course God has laid out for him. The book highlights 24 elements of character, pairing these elements according to contrasting positive and negative character traits (works of the Spirit versus works of the flesh). This book presents the meaning, importance and principles of each of the elements of character and then discusses how each unfolds in the individual's life and behavior. The content and form of this book encourages sharing these truths through living relationships, enabling mentors to gear the material to each mentee's level of understanding. The book presents hundreds of scriptures, organized around each topic, for study or memorization. Consistent and judicious use of this book will allow you to better bring within your reach the vast responsibility of parenting or pastoring as you enter into deeper relationship with children, disciples and God. The book assumes the approach that a life impresses and guides better than precepts alone, so it also speaks to parents and pastors, hoping they will also build their own Christian character as the main beacon for others to follow. As you minister through this book, you'll inevitably see it applying to your own life, helping you to become a more effective vessel to disciple those under your nurture and care. Many parents, teachers and pastors have testified that the changes in their own lives have been rewarding as those in the lives they've instructed.*

*"To love [God] with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." –Jesus' words in Mark 12:33 Without question the crucial issue in living the Christian life is the condition of your heart. Actions may be temporarily deceiving, but ultimately our outward behavior will reflect what's inside, because our internal attitudes form who we really are. Those inner attitudes are also what God deems most important. In this book one of Christianity's most respected Bible teachers and pastors examines the foundational attitudes, or "pillars," of Christian character as outlined in God's Word. Pillars such as genuine faith, obedience, humility, selfless love, forgiveness, self-discipline, gratitude, and worship. To some degree each trait, on its own, marks a person as one of God's own and reveals an active, living faith. Each is an essential element of mature Christianity. But there is transforming power when you combine them in your everyday living as God commands. Your character will be grounded in godliness; you will see things from an eternal perspective; and your faith, your actions, your witness to others will be revitalized from the inside out.*

*The Christian life is a process of growing in holiness, our natural response to the good news of our redemption in Christ. This kind of growth is gradual, and obstacles are plentiful. Thankfully, we don't have to go it alone. God has given us his Spirit so that we can overcome temptation and become more and more conformed to the image of Christ. But how does the Spirit work? What is the nature of our own personal involvement in the process? And how do we know if we are making progress? Drawn from the lectures of beloved theologian R. C. Sproul, *Growing in Holiness* explores the doctrine of sanctification, offering insightful commentary on themes such as developing perseverance, overcoming barriers to growth, dealing with feelings of inadequacy, cultivating love for God and others, exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit, and much more. Whether you're a new believer who wants to understand what the Christian life is all about or you've been a Christian for some time but are frustrated by a lack of progress, this book is your guide to pursuing a holy life.*

*The Psychology of Christian Character Formation*

*A Devotional Guidebook Through the Elements of Christian Character for Children and Adults*

*Putting On the Character of Christ*

*Principles of Character Development for Every Believer*

*Blueprints Bible Study - Introduction*

*A Bible Study on Developing Christian Character*

**A Lost Book from J. Oswald Sanders Now Re-Released with a Beautiful New Cover "Many true lovers of the Lord are beset with a sense of inadequacy and failure in living the Christian life as it ought to be lived. ... they yearn to know Christ better and serve Him more worthily. It is to such that this little volume is addressed." -J. Oswald Sanders, from the introduction J. Oswald Sanders (best known for his book *Spiritual Leadership*, which has sold over a million copies) touched hundreds of thousands of lives in his lifetime and continues to inspire Christians today. His books *Spiritual Leadership*, *Spiritual Maturity*, and *The Incomparable Christ* are beloved and well-read to this day. But there are two of his books that readers haven't had access to in over 30 years. *Cultivation of Christian Character* is one of them. It's a profound and challenging book for anyone who earnestly wants to know God more. Sanders teaches you about spiritual struggle, the healing power of Scripture, and how to fight spiritual warfare victoriously. But most of all he shows you how to give up your self-focus and take up a Christ-focus. Any Christian who wants to grow will surely be benefited by this book.**

*Study guide for Developing Christian Character includes lesson objectives, message outline, study questions, and discussion questions. Suitable for individual or group study.*

*We like to think of ourselves, our friends, and our families as decent people. We may not be saints, but we are still honest, relatively kind, and mostly trustworthy. Miller argues here that we are badly mistaken in thinking this. Hundreds of recent studies in psychology tell a different story: that we all have serious character flaws that prevent us from being as good as we think we are - and that we do not even recognize that these flaws exist. But neither are most of us cruel or dishonest. Instead, Miller argues, we are a mixed bag. On the one hand, most of us in a group of bystanders will do nothing as someone cries out for help in an emergency. Yet it is also true that there will be many times when we will selflessly come to the aid of a complete stranger - and resist the urge to lie, cheat, or steal even if we could get away with it. Much depends on cues in our social environment. Miller uses this recent psychological literature to explain what the notion of "character" really means today, and how we can use this new understanding to develop a character better in sync with the kind of people we want to be.*

*The Pillars of Christian Character*

*Intellectual Character Development*

*Christian Character*

*After You Believe*

*Developing Character for Ministry Leadership*

*Why Christian Character Matters*

**Teacher-administrator Philip Dow explores the implications of setting intellectual character (rather than intellectual content) at the heart of our educational programs. With ample stories and practical suggestions, Dow shows how intellectual virtues like tenacity, carefulness and curiosity are teachable traits that can produce good lives. From the author of the acclaimed *Simply Christian* and *Surprised by Hope* comes a book that addresses the question that has plagued humans for centuries—what is our purpose? As Christians, what are we to do with that ambiguous time between baptism and the funeral? It's easy to become preoccupied with who gets into heaven; the real challenge is how we are going to live in the here and now. Wright dispels the common misconception that Christian living is nothing more than a checklist of dos and don'ts. Nor is it a prescription to "follow your heart" wherever it may lead. Instead, *After You Believe* reveals the Bible's call for a revolution—a transformation of character that takes us beyond our earthly pursuit of money, sex, and power into a virtuous state of living that allows us to reflect God and live more worshipful, fulfilling lives. We are all spiritual seekers, intuitively knowing there is more to life than we suspect. This is a book for anyone who is hoping there is something more while we're here on Earth. There is. We are being called to join the revolution, and Wright insightfully encourages readers to find new purpose and clarity by taking us on an eye-opening journey through key biblical**

passages that promise to radically alter the work of the church and the direction of our lives.

Developed from years of student ministry experience, the Intensive Discipleship Course is designed specifically for high schoolers and college students seeking to be bold and purposeful disciples of Christ. Each volume in the series contains a twelve-week program of daily Bible readings, Scripture memory, missions and book reports, and tools for spiritual growth.

Cultivation of Christian Character

Help in Daily Living

Developing Christian Servant Leadership

Horace Bushnell on Christian Character Development

A Christian Integrative Approach to Clinical Supervision

Your Way Or God's Way

Developing Christian Servant Leadership provides a Christian faith-based perspective on servant leader character development in the workplace and argues that leadership requires passionate and authentic biblical integration.

Are you searching for life above the ordinary? Do you want true and lasting relationships, a genuine godly character, and a practical everyday faith that fills your life and the lives of those you touch with blessings? Then this powerful booklet is exactly what you need. Each chapter is a veritable mine of rich gems, worthy of recounting again and again as you face the practical realities of getting along with yourself, with others, and with God. The author was a realistic Christian of rich experience with the Savior, and one ever alert to opportunities to render encouragement and help to those about her.

Recognizing that true happiness is found only as we give, she viewed every Christian-layman, medical practitioner, and gospel laborer-as a "worker" interested in the welfare of others, and referred to such as "workers." Carry this booklet with you. Read a portion as you have a free moment, and memorize some of the gems. Ponder the words and put them into practice. Life will become richer and more meaningful to you. Now in a BIG PRINT EDITION (A4)

The Psychology of Christian Character Formation offers clergy and those preparing for ministry some of the potential riches provided by rapidly developing branches of contemporary scientific psychology of which they might otherwise be unaware. Joanna Collicutt, an experienced psychologist and theological educator, focuses on the psychology of character, virtue and spirituality. Furthermore, the psychology is not used to support training in pastoral ministry to others, but rather to support the reader's own self-awareness and spiritual growth. Joanna Collicutt understands Christian formation as Christian communities and their members growing up into conformity with the character of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit. This is explored in the three parts of the book: first, an exploration of the process of Christian formation that includes a detailed analysis of the character of Jesus of Nazareth; secondly some focused psychology aimed at supporting an informed self-awareness in the reader; finally – and the most lengthy section – a series of chapters devoted to using psychological insights to help cultivate the Christ-like characteristics identified in the first section.

Developing Clinicians of Character

The Character Gap

A Guidebook Through the Elements of Christian Character

Cultivating Christian Character

Lead Strong

God's Babies

Teaching Outline + Study Guide for The Assurance of Salvation

The authors have followed up their popular book, A Heart Like His, with this study on development the character of Christ.

Terri S. Watson equips you to excel in "the helping profession within a helping profession" as you provide clinical supervision for other mental health workers.

Grounding our thinking in the historic and contemporary wisdom of virtue ethics, this resource aims to identify and strengthen supervision's important role for character formation in the classroom, in continuing education for practitioners, and in clinical settings.

Developing Godly Character in Children

Growing in Holiness

Growing Kingdom Character

Mentoring Leaders

Into Thy Word

We've all seen it before—experienced leaders failing due to some type of transgression. Author Tom Yeakley believes this happens because character flaws that were always present begin to come forward. Based on his 30-plus years of discipleship and coaching experience, Yeakley has developed Growing Kingdom Character to help current leaders challenge emerging leaders to intentionally developing their character. Teaching, exercises, and Bible study make this practical handbook a must-have for those involved in mentoring young leaders. The fruit will be integrity, maturity, and wisdom in a new generation of leaders.

We are told so often to simply do whatever makes us feel good. This study will help your group recognize the emptiness that is bound to come from pursuing such a course. It will move your members to a new appreciation of what God can do with a life that dares to be different than the world. It is a thought provoking

and motivating study that your group will greatly benefit from.

Compassion, humility, faith, perseverance. We long for the beauty of Christ to be reflected in our lives. Such character comes only as the Spirit of God transforms us through the Word of God. These Bible studies will help you become the person God created you to be.

**Developing the Character of Christ**

**Faith-based Character Growth at Work**

**Natalism and Bible Interpretation in Modern America**

**Developing a Sound Christian Character**

**Wisdom for Developing Character, Calling, and Competency**

**Study Guide for the Video Or Audio Series**

What does it take to build character? How do you instill godly qualities inside yourself that are displayed consistently through words, actions, and attitudes that reflect what Jesus himself is like? **Building Character Together** takes you and your small group inside the Bible to learn character-building lessons from some of its most compelling figures. In six enjoyable, interactive sessions, each volume in this six-volume series helps you deeply explore the complex issues of developing Christian character. Combining study, discussion, and shared experiences, here is a pathway to growth both individually and as a group. Explore the lives of David, Mary Magdalene, Jacob, and other men and women of the Bible. Learn lessons from their successes and failures and from their relationships with God and other people that you can readily link to yourself and your own life circumstances. Enjoy frank discussions that draw you and other group members deeper into each others' lives. And put it all into action in a one-day group retreat, a service project, a mini-mission work, and other experiences that help you make the leap from good words to good works.

As Christians, we know that we are new creations in Jesus. So we try to act differently, hoping this will make us more like Him. But changing our outward behavior doesn't change our hearts. Only by God's grace can we be transformed internally. **Renovation of the Heart** lays a biblical foundation for understanding what best-selling author Dallas Willard calls the transformation of the spirit—a divine process that brings every element in our being, working from inside out, into harmony with the will of God. This fresh approach to spiritual growth explains the biblical reasons why Christians need to undergo change in six aspects of life: thought, feeling, will, body, social context, and soul. Willard also outlines a general pattern of transformation in each area, not as a sterile formula but as a practical process that you can follow without the guilt or perfectionism so many Christians wrestle with. Don't settle for complacency. Accept the challenge **Renovation of the Heart** offers to become an intentional apprentice of Jesus Christ, changing daily as you walk with Him.

**The Assurance of Salvation**

**Practical, Intentional Tools for Developing Leaders**

**Developing Christian Character When on One Else Cares**