



OUR CONDUCT AS HIS CHILD

NOVEMBER 25, 2024

PROVERBS 10:9 NKJV – (9) He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.

A person's character is the sum of his or her disposition, thoughts, intentions, desires, and actions. It is good to remember that character is gauged by general tendencies, not on the basis of a few isolated actions. We must look at the whole life. For example, King David was a man of good character (**1 Samuel 13:14**) although he sinned on occasion (**2 Samuel 11**). And although King Ahab may have acted nobly once (**1 Kings 22:35**), he was still a man of overall bad character (**1 Kings 16:33**). Several people in the Bible are described as having noble character: Ruth (**Ruth 3:11**), Hanani (**Nehemiah 7:2**), David (**Psalms 78:72**), and Job (**Job 2:3**). These individuals' lives were distinguished by persistent moral virtue.

Character is influenced and developed by our choices. Daniel "resolved not to defile himself" in Babylon (**Daniel 1:8**), and that godly choice was an important step in formulating an unassailable integrity in the young man's life. Character, in turn, influences our choices. "The integrity of the upright guides them" (**Proverbs 11:3a**). Character will help us weather the storms of life and keep us from sin (**Proverbs 10:9a**).

It is the Lord's purpose to develop character within us. Godly character is the result of the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification. Character in the believer is a consistent manifestation of Jesus in his life. It is the purity of heart that God gives becoming purity in action. God sometimes uses trials to strengthen character: "we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (**Romans 5:3-4**). The Lord is pleased when His children grow in character. "You test the heart and are pleased with integrity."

SCRIPTURE READING: PROVERBS 10:9a

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried."