

2. Being a Man and a Dad



In the introductory section of lesson 2 of the Fathering in 15™ program it says “part of being a good man is to have good character”. Let’s take a closer look at what “good character” means, and it would be helpful to know what God thinks about it. So let’s see what that is.

At one point in the history of the Jewish people they complained to God and said that they wanted to have a king to rule them, just like the other nations that surrounded them. At that time the leader of the nation of Israel was a prophet by the name of Samuel. In response to the people’s complaints, God said he would give them a king to rule over them instead. So he guided Samuel to a man named Saul, and Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. Though Saul could have been a good king he instead chose to do several things that displeased God so God decided that Saul could no longer be king, so God guided Samuel to another man to be the king in place of Saul. God told Samuel to go to the home of a man named Jesse, and that he had chosen one of the sons of Jesse to be the new king. When Samuel arrived at the home of Jesse Samuel first met Jesse’s oldest son Eliab, and Samuel jumped to the conclusion that Eliab was to be the new king. But instead, the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” Samuel then went through all of Jesse’s 7 oldest sons before God told Samuel that the youngest son, a mere boy, was to be the new king of Israel. This boy’s name was David, and as Israel’s new king, he would become one of the most well known men in the Bible. You can read the story of David’s selection in the 16th chapter of the book in the Bible called 1 Samuel. As we will see in the next lesson, David was far from perfect, but he was known as a “man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22). David was a man of “good character”, and when God chose him to be the new king he was not looking at David’s outward appearance, but at his heart.

If we, as men, want to be good men we must start by looking at ourselves, at our own hearts. As we see things that are not as they should be we can, with God’s help, change and become men of good character. Let’s look at some of the areas of our life that may need to change.

Are we looking out for the best interests of those around us, like our children, their mother, others?

Jesus said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”
John 13:35

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.
Philippians 2:3-4

What does our mind focus on? Do we need to change our thought patterns?

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.
Philippians 4:8

Do we then demonstrate this in how we act toward others?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23

Do we surround ourselves with people that will help us go in the right direction and make good choices?

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”
1 Corinthians 15:33

And as you become a “man of good character” you will help mold your sons and daughters to grow up to also be men and women of good character. You will be able to pass on to them your faith and dependence on God and His wisdom, and that will be able to then guide them throughout their lives.

Questions for thought and discussion:

- a. Why is being a man of “good character” so important?
- b. How does society’s and God’s view of “good” men differ?
- c. How will good character impact you and your family?
- d. What initial steps must you take to become a “good” man according to the Lord’s standards?