



Titus Ten – Chapter #6

Character

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Opening Prayer

Introduction: Good morning. Today, we will be discussing chapter 6 of our study through the book, *The Titus Ten: Foundations for Godly Manhood*. This chapter is about what makes up the character of a man.

- Someone tell me what character means to them? What comes to mind when you think of someone's character?
- Let me tell you a quick story. My wife Hailey is a teacher. She has about 16 kids on average from ages 4 to 6 years old in her class each day. There is a boy in her class that reminds her of me. She says I was probably just like him when I was his age. He is 5. His name is Levi, and he loves cars, trucks, construction equipment, pretty much anything with wheels just like me. When I was around his age, I used to ask my grandmother to take me to nearby construction sites to let me watch the construction workers operate their equipment... Sounds fun right? Anyway, Hailey was telling me the other day about how occasionally, when she leaves work, Levi, will yell to her through the playground fence to make sure she puts her seat belt on so she will be safe on her drive home. Like I said he is only 5 years old and is already displaying attributes of a man with good character, looking out for others and caring for their well-being. The book talks about the need to start building character at a young age just like this young man.
- The author, Josh Smith, quotes E. M. Bounds who talks about our character coming from within us, He describes it as "the root of the tree." It's what your conduct comes from. Conduct is what we do, and character is what we are.
- Character is something that must be built. There's no magic pill. There's no such thing as 'manifesting' godly character. It requires action. The same thing must happen for growth in Christ. It can't happen passively. It takes hard work, dedication, and focus.
- Growth in our spiritual life is not something attempted lazily, it demands effort. Just as Jose Altuve consistently practices to improve his .305 career batting average, we believers must consistently cultivate our relationship with Jesus to become more like Him.

Summary of Chapter 6 – Character:

- This book identifies 3 things that make up a man's character: being Blameless, having Self-Control, and having Courage.
- **Blamelessness:**
 - What does it mean to be Blameless?
 - In Philippians 2 :14-15 Paul tells us *"Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world."*
 - The word Blameless in this verse is from the root word amemptos – meaning without blemish or defect. We as believers are to seek this type of blamelessness in our morals and spiritual life. This does not mean we must be perfect. That is unachievable by any man but Christ. It is however, something that we must strive for.
 - I'd like to read Psalm 15 for us quickly. It's only 5 verses. This is how David describes a blameless man.
 - Psalm 15 – *"O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? 2 He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; 3 who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; 4 in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the Lord; who swears to his own hurt and does not change; 5 who does not [lend] out his money [with] interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved."*
 - A blameless man shows integrity. He is unaccusable. He acts justly, even when no one is around. Can you call yourself a blameless man today? If the church were to interview someone in your life, would they have anything negative to say about your Character? These are things we should be asking ourselves.
- **Self-Control**
 - Someone give me an example of self-control.
 - What does Scripture say about self-control?
 - Firstly, we know that it is a fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5.

- Proverbs 25:28 Shows us what it looks like to lack self-control. *"Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a person who has no self-control over his spirit."*
- Genesis 39:7–9 gives us an example of Joseph exemplifying self-control by resisting Potiphar's wife. *"7 It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, 'Lie with me.' But he refused and said to his master's wife, 'Look, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house... How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?'"*
- 2 Peter 1:5–6 shows us the link in the chain that self-control is for the progression of spiritual maturity. 5 *"Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith, supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness."*

- Are you exercising self-control in all areas of your life?
- Are you self-controlled in the small areas of your life? Ex: Are you overeating? Are you spending too much time on your phone? Are you taking your thoughts captive?
- How about the larger areas? Are you practicing sexual purity? Are you financially responsible? Are you serving Christ instead of yourself?
- We believers have the Spirit of God inside of us that provides the self-control we need to be godly men. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, *"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."*

- **Courage.**

- Here are some examples of what courage looks like. Courage is – trusting God when you're afraid, obeying God even when it's hard, standing firm in your faith, living for God publicly, and doing what is right, even if you're alone.
- The book brought a truth to my attention that I had never considered before. Everyone suffers when men don't have courage.
- Take Genesis 3 for example. Adam lacked courage when he blamed Eve and hid from God. This lack of courage ended up leading to the fall of humanity! I'm not saying every time we lack courage it will lead to the fall of humanity, but you get my point. It's serious.
- The enemy wants us to be passive so that he can *"steal, kill, and destroy"* (John 10:10) but the Lord commands us to stand for what's right. to have courage.

- o Courage flows from confidence in the Lord. As your faith in God grows so will your confidence.
- o Courage is not an option as a man; it is a necessity.
 - 1 Corinthians 16:13 *"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."*
- o We were born males, but we must grow into men.
- o It is not providing for your family, your manly skills, or acting tough, but a Christ-like character that makes a godly man.

Closing Challenge:

- As we close, I would encourage you to figure out what your virtues are so that you can cultivate them. Ask someone close to you to lovingly tell you where you fall short. Recognize and confess those short falls to the Lord. Then begin taking the steps necessary to improve.
- The goal is to make our character mirror the character of Christ.
- Thank you all for listening.

Questions or Comments?

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