

## Study Guide for: "Character Matters"

**Scripture:** James 1:19-22 and 2 Peter 1:3-11

**Theme:** God desires to form godly character in each one who is called to follow Jesus.

### I. Character: What is it exactly?

- A. Character is the basis of how you make decisions.
- B. Character is not only doing what is right, it is having the right motive. (1 Thess 4:3-6)
- C. Character is not equal to competence.
- D. Character is not tolerating evil in our hearts. (Prov. 8:13)
- E. Character is reflecting the love of God.

### II. Character: How is it formed?

- A. Character is formed when your beliefs become your convictions. (Romans 12:2)
- B. A belief is something that we know to be true, but we don't always act on it. (Gal. 2:11-13)
- C. A conviction is what we develop when we don't allow our beliefs to be compromised.
- D. Godly character is what happens when biblical convictions become our nature.

### III. Character: Where does it come from?

- A. Character is formed in us by God.
- B. First, we renew our mind. (Eph. 4:21-24)
- C. Second, He tests our character.
  - i. Having character doesn't always yield pleasant results.
  - ii. Having character always pay off in the end.

#### IV. Character: Why does it matter?

- A. Your character is the most important thing in your life. (1 Pet. 1:6-7)
- B. Without character, you will be blind to it in others.
- C. Without character, you will be blind to your true condition. (2 Pet. 1:8-9)
- D. Without character, you cannot become spiritually mature.

**Conclusion:** Although we will never be perfect, we should strive for godly character. The source of character is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. (2 Pet. 1:10-11)