

The Epistles - Part 4

1 Corinthians 15:33 - Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

1. Review

- a. The epistles are filled with doctrinal teachings, warnings against false teachers, encouragement through tough circumstances, & the moral character and conduct expected of Christians.
- b. The epistles are filled with encouragement for Christians going through troubles.

2. Introduction

- a. What is a moral? "Relating to the practice, manners or conduct of men as social beings in relation to each other, and with reference to right and wrong." - Webster.
- b. What is Character? "the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual. - Oxford
- c. Therefore, Moral Character refers to what a person thinks about and thus chooses to treat those around them. The epistles are filled with instructions on how Christians should think and treat one another.

3. The Moral Character and Conduct Expected of Christians

- a. How to Think (Philip. 4:8, Col. 3:1-2, 1 Cor. 3:18, 2 Cor. 10:5, James 1:8, Eph. 4:22-24)
Romans 8:5-6 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. (6) For to be carnally minded is **death**; but to be spiritually minded is **life** and **peace**.
- b. How to Speak (James 1:19, 3:2-10, Eph 4:15)
Ephesians 4:29 Let no **corrupt** communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and **cursing**. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.
- c. How to treat your family
Eph 5:22, 25 Wives, **submit** yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. (25) Husbands, **love** your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
Eph 6:1-4 Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (2) Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) (3) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. (4) And, ye fathers, **provoke** not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- d. Having Moral Character is useful in reaching the lost (2 Cor. 4:1-4)
- e. Having Moral Character is the will of God and it glorifies God (1 Th 4:3, 5:23; 2 Cor 5:17; Rom 6:1-21, 12:1-2; Php 1:6)
2 Tim 2:21 If a man therefore **purge** himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.
2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and **virtue**:

4. Memory Verses: Last Week **Philippians 4:13**; This Week **1 Corinthians 15:33**

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