

LESSON 1

WHAT A CHARACTER!

2 PETER 1:1–11



1 Who comes to mind when you think of strong moral character?

2 How does a person develop character?



Read the introductory material to 2 Peter, 2 Peter 1:1–11, and the following notes:

☐ 1:2 ☐ 1:3, 4 ☐ 1:5–9 ☐ 1:6 ☐ 1:9 ☐ 1:10

3 Where do we get the ability to develop Christian character (1:3, 4)?

4 What do we contribute to the process of growing spiritually (1:5–7)?

5 What happens to those who work at developing Christian character (1:8–11)?

6 In what sense is the person without Christian character blind or shortsighted (1:9)?

Godly character often seems elusive or impossible for ordinary people to attain. But Peter's words are good news. God has given us "everything we need for living a godly life" (1:3). Despite this fact, many Christians still struggle with sinful attitudes or habits that keep them from developing Christlike character. The reason some Christians may not develop godly character is not necessarily due to a weak mind or will. Rather, it may be because they do not depend on God to help them change and mature. Perhaps you have been dogged by a bad habit or a tenacious tendency. Don't lose heart. Instead, humble yourself before God, confessing your sin and asking him for help. He has everything you need to change.



7 In the life of a Christian, what is . . .

moral excellence? _____

knowledge? _____

self-control? _____

patient endurance? _____

godliness? _____

love for other Christians? _____

love for everyone? _____

8 How does a Christian develop godly character?



9 What aspect of your character is most important to you and to your family?

10 Whom do you admire or respect because of his/her character? What in particular is admirable about that person's character?

11 How do you know when someone has strong character? (How does it show?)

12 Which quality listed in 2 Peter 1:5–7 is your weakest?

13 Which is your strongest?

14 What character quality will you ask God to help you to begin developing this week?



15 What change in your daily routine would help you develop this quality?

A Which of the Megathemes in 2 Peter address your needs or interests? How might these help you?

B What causes decadence in the world (1:4)? How can people make the world less decadent? How can you personally make a difference?

C What is the importance of good deeds (1:10, 11)? What do your deeds say about you? What do you want your deeds to say about you?

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