

Growing Kids God's Way

Summary Outline - Visit 6 - Chapter 6

I. Introduction

A. What is character?

1. Character is not your temperament, nor is it your personality, but the governing _____ and values of both.
2. Human temperament is _____. Personality is the combination of your temperament and upbringing.
3. Character is the _____ quality of your personality. It is the outward reflection of the inner man.

B. Character training and morality

Moral training and character development are the same thing. Our morality _____ our character, and our character reflects our morality and what is in our hearts.

1. What is the basis of our morality?

The basis of our morality is God's _____ law.

Definition: God's moral law is a prescription for moral living that reflects the _____ and character of God.

2. God's moral law is derived from both the Old and New Testament.

C. The ultimate purpose of character training

1. In the Christian community, our collective character is to be a unified reflection of God's _____ law.

2. God desires to be made known to the world, so this is what He has done.

a. He has _____ a people on the Earth to represent Him.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a Holy Nation—a people belonging to God" (1 Peter 2:9a).

b. What was His purpose?

"That you may declare the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9b). This means He wants our behavior to be a reflection of His character, which is in fact the means by which we declare His praises, and in so doing, His presence.

c. What is this called?

This is called Holiness. Holiness implies _____ and _____.

d. What is the purpose for Holiness?

The purpose of a holy lifestyle is to communicate God's presence to the world. That is why character training in the Christian community is so important. That is also why, "Whether you eat or drink, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

1) Defining glory

Glory means to make _____.

2) How do we glorify God?

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

e. The ultimate purpose of character training

Biblical values that represent the person of God, lived out in the families of the Christian community, are to serve two purposes.

Our behavior, which is

- governed by our morality
- derived from God's moral law
- a reflection of God's moral character and His will

Allows us to serve these purposes:

1) Define God to the _____.

2) Help the _____ find God.

II. Character Development

The six natural relationships which provide context for character development

We all have a natural relationship with:

1. Authority
2. Parents
3. Age
4. Siblings/Peers
5. Property of others
6. Nature

III. Respect for Authority

A. Examples of authority

B. Scripture and authority

1. "Obey your leaders and submit to them" (Hebrews 13:17).
2. "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God" (Romans 13:1).
3. "Submit yourself for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as one in authority or governors sent by him" (1 Peter 2:13-14).
4. "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God, and honor the King" (1 Peter 2:17).

C. Defining authority

1. Authority is not the _____ but the power to _____ the law.
2. Authority does not mean making everyone _____ but treating everyone equitably.
3. Authority must be understood as _____ - _____.

D. The supreme importance of authority

Authority is the genesis of freedom. To dethrone the notion of authority is to dismantle the concept of _____ and _____, for law and order are inseparably linked to the concept of authority. The two are dependent on authority.

IV. Respect for Parents

A. The fifth commandment, "Honor your father and mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you" (Exodus 20:12), is linked with the first four commandments. The first five deal with man's relationship to God; the last five deal with man's relationship with man.

B. The Warning

1. "The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out and young eagles will eat it" (Proverbs 30:17).
2. "He who strikes his mother or father shall surely be put to death" (Exodus 21:15).
3. "He who curses his mother and father shall surely be put to death" (Exodus 21:17).

C. Parental authority and child training

1. When your children are young, lead them by your _____.
2. When your children are teens, lead them by the power of your relational _____.
3. The transition
 - a. From obedience to _____
 - b. From obligation of doing right to _____ of doing right
 - c. From duty to _____
4. Devotional Honor vs. Duty Honor