



SEVEN SPICES
Part 1 : Character
Sunday September 26, 2010

Introduction :

The role spices play in cooking

2 Peter 1:1-11

Peter lists 7 things to add to our faith

1. Virtue (strong character)
2. Knowledge (spiritual understanding, renewed mind)
3. Discipline (Self-Control, temperance)
4. Perseverance (Endurance, patience)
5. Godliness (Purity, reverence)
6. Brotherly Kindness (fellowship, warm friendliness)
7. Love

Message Bible

2 Peter 1:5-7

5 So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding,

6 alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder,

7 warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others.

If we do add these to our faith, that is develop these in our lives along with our faith -

- you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- for if you do these things you will never stumble;

If you lack these, then you are

- shortsighted, even to blindness, - cannot see clearly or at best only see the immediate, but cannot see the long term

- forget that you were cleansed from your old sins and tend to go back

We'll examine these one by one.

CHARACTER

The first one is virtue, or as the Message Bible states: Good Character

virtue Gr. aretas = "good quality or excellence of any kind. In the ancient classics it is used to denote manliness, vigor, courage, valor, fortitude;" (Barnes Commentary)

Peter uses the word "virtue" in at least 3 places in his writings:

2 Peter 1:3,5

Vs 3 : we are called to virtue or a life of good character

Vs 5 : we are to add virtue (good character) to our faith

He also uses this word in 1 Peter 2:9



In 1 Peter 2:9 we are called to display the praises (same Gr. word as virtues 'aretas') of the One who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light...

We are to display the character of the One who called us out of darkness...

My character has to be forged into that of Christ. We are to develop Christlike character – the virtues of Christ.

What is character ?

Character – who I really am as a person. My inner core.

My secret choices describe my character.

Who I am when no one is watching is an expression of my character.

We can cover up our character with an outward show...but in really difficult times, what I really am on the inside shows up.

Character takes time to build. Grace is given freely from heaven. Character is built over time here on earth.

How is character developed ?

1, Companions influence character

1 Corinthians 15:32-34 Proverbs 17:17

In a "virtual world" (i.e. internet world), virtual friends (i.e. friends on Facebook and similar virtual communities) – have a real influence on your character.

Books you read, music you listen to – these are "companions" that influence your character.

2, Challenges build character

Romans 5:1-5

Difficulties develops endurance. Endurance, that is standing firm through the difficult times is what allows character to develop. And this kind of character gives us durability (hope).

When we go through the challenges of life – that is when we learn to develop good character.

Character cannot be developed aside from **Trials, Temptations, Tests**. Sometime as we pass through these things, we may fall, make mistakes. But as we learn to recover from our failures and mistakes, learn our lessons and keep moving forward with endurance – good character is developed.

It is like putting on muscles on your body...it does not happen by itself...it requires consistent hard work.

Character is what we need to handle **Triumphs** correctly.



More people fall in the middle of their greatest Triumphs than in the middle of their greatest Trial – because they were lax in the area of character.

3, Counsel and Correction enhance character

The lessons we learn when correction is brought in to our lives play a great role in character development.

Like we saw last Sunday, this is where Saul fell. This was the big difference between Saul and David. Both of them made mistakes. God rejected Saul but forgave David. What was the difference? When Saul was corrected, he acknowledged he had sinned, but still claimed to have obeyed God in his own eyes and shifted the blame on the people. Sauls' character remain unchanged – in fact went down to worse levels. When David was corrected, he acknowledged his sin and took full responsibility for his actions. He did not blame anyone else. His character went up to a new level.

The way we respond to correction determines if that correction will take us to a new level of character development or will leave us unchanged deteriorating to a lower level.

Hebrews 12:5-11 God brings His loving correction into our lives

2 Corinthians 3:18

[Aside: Parents are responsible to help nurture character in their children Proverbs 29:15,17]

The outcome of good character

Good character is so that we can glorify the One who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light...

Ministry is usually an expression of your history with God. What have you walked through with God in your life. What have you seen, heard and learnt of Him through your firsthand journey with God. When you share that with others – that is ministry.

2 Corinthians 1:3,4

Good character in every day life

So what is good character....what could be some characteristics of good character in every-day-life terms? To answer this question we are going to turn to a very unusual place in Scripture to see a description of a virtuous woman – Proverbs 31:10-31 . Lets read this from the perspective of trying to determine what are the traits or marks of good character (virtuous = forceful, valour, strength, morally strong).

In versus 11-27, some of the traits are repeated several times in different ways:

Trustworthy vs 11

Kind, Benevolent vs 12

Willing worker vs 13

Industrious vs 14



Conscientious vs 15
Industrious vs 16
Improves herself vs 17
Willing worker vs 18 19
Kind, Benevolent vs 20
Secure vs 21
Dignified/honorable vs 22
Industrious vs 24
Dignified/honorable vs 25
Wise, kind vs 26
Conscientious vs 27

Add to your faith – good character - so that people can see a display of Christ in you.

ALTAR CALL



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>