

Word on Wednesday Bible Study

Pastor Kenneth Reece

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“No God; No Character. Know God; Know Character” - 2 Peter 1:1-11

INTRODUCTION: A common argument made by opponents of Christianity (or religion in general) is that one shouldn't act simply because God told them to, but instead because “it's the right thing to do.” Those who make this argument often overlook a fundamental question: Who or what determines what is right or wrong? The fact is, not everyone shares the same moral framework, nor does everyone view the world in the same way. As our nation and the world demonstrate, there are diverse views on what is right and wrong. That's why there must be a higher power to whom we submit and model our lives after. The same idea applies to character. No human can have true character without a higher power. Something or someone is informing their understanding of right and wrong. As we consider this idea of character, let's remember that with God, character flourishes. Without God, character is severely lacking.

I. The _____ of our Godly Character – 1-3

“...May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his glory and excellence...” - Vs. 2-3.

Peter says again in verse 3, “***His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, ...***” (2 Pet. 1:3). This is to convey that God is our supplier! and that He has equipped us with what we need to live lives of character. **This further emphasizes how we cannot survive without God.**

II. The _____ for Godly Character – vs. 4-8

“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. Vs. 5-7

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

QUALITIES TO CULTIVATE:

- _____: Trusting in God through Christ and His promise of eternal life, serving as the foundation of our relationship with Him.
- _____: Moral excellence and virtue, reflecting a character that seeks to do what is right.

- _____: Understanding and **wisdom** about God, His Word, and His ways, leading to a deeper relationship with Him.
- _____: The ability to exercise restraint over one's desires and impulses, aligning actions with God's will.
- _____: Steadfastness and endurance in faith, especially during trials and challenges.
- _____: A life that reflects reverence and devotion to God, embodying His character in our actions.
- _____: Brotherly love and kindness towards fellow believers, fostering unity and support within the community.
- _____: The highest form of love, agape, which is selfless and unconditional, reflecting God's love for us.

“For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – vs. 8

III. The _____ of our Godly Character - 9-11

“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” - Luke 6:45

“For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities, you will never fall.

Vs. 11 “For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

CONCLUSION: Many people spend their lives trying to do the right thing, and their intentions are genuinely good. However, some believe they can do so without the Lord. As admirable as it is to want to do right, no effort to do so can succeed without God. Therefore, any effort made without God is wasted and will lead to disappointment. A car can't run without gas. A tire can't function without air. Most appliances need electricity, and the heart needs blood to function. Similarly, none of us can truly live without God. He is our primary source and sustainer. This applies in all areas of our lives. Anyone who doesn't know Him is at a permanent disadvantage—one that can't be recovered without God's involvement. In short, No God, No Character. Know God, Know Character.