



“Winning the Character War”

Bishop Frank and JoeNell Summerfield

Texts: Romans 7:14-25, Genesis 39:4-12, Daniel 6:1-10, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 3:14-20

In our opening text Romans 7:14-25 the Apostle Paul teaches about the constant war that goes on in our inner man that no one can see but God and us. He deals with the constant conflict between our inner spiritual nature like Jesus Christ that desires to do good or the right thing and the flesh nature that flaws our character. We must search ourselves and identify our character flaws and deficiencies that keep us from doing what we know is right. Notice a few of the verses and the conflict or war that they sight.

Romans 7:15 But that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16: If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

17: Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Note: The sin that dwells in us is because of character flaws or things we need to overcome, get rid of, or change about oneself.

18: For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Note: Without the fruit of the spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23 we can't **Win the Character War** against our flesh and sinful nature.

19: For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

21: I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

23: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

A Prisoner of One's Own Character Flaws.

Now let's define character

The mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual the way someone thinks, feels, believes, and behaves; honest, integrity; doing the right thing just because it's right to do what is right whether anyone see you or not; your character is the word you live by.

The Holy Spirit causes your inner spirit to have the Godly character and morals of God that cause us to do the right thing in every area of responsibility we have whether as a husband, wife, parent, employee, employer, church member, church leader, etc.

Joseph is a great example of Godly character and morals in Genesis 39:4-12. He had the complete run of his master's house, found

STUDY NOTES



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grace in his sight, and was well favored, but refused to lie with his master’s wife even when no one was looking.

Genesis 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

8: But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

9: There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

When you have Godly character and morals you are always very concerned about what kind of behavior would displease or disappoint God. Joseph went to prison for maintaining Godly character and morals. But he eventually rose to the highest position in Egypt other than Pharaoh, and ruled Egypt. Please see Genesis 41:39-43 for details on Joseph’s promotion to rule Egypt.

Daniel was another person who Won the Character War and maintained the Godly character needed to prosper and be promoted to rule in a strange land.

Daniel 6:1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

2: And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

3: Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Daniel’s excellent spirit was the result of his excellent Godly character on the inside. He had obviously done his homework and got himself right in his inner man. Whatever we are on the inside is who, what, and how we will be and demonstrate in our outward actions and behavior, as a husband, wife, parent, student, employee, employer, church leader, or church servant or volunteer.

4: Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

You can’t produce faithfulness if you have character flaws or deficiencies in Psalm 31:23. It’s really amazing how so many people can

STUDY NOTES



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demonstrate good character in their application of themselves in duty to a secular job by being on time, submitting to rules and policies etc. but lose character when time comes to be on time for God at church, and serve faithfully and diligently at church.

There's no substitute for character, not even talent and skills. Sometimes one's talents or skills can take them somewhere that their character can't keep them. Our inner man must be strengthened by the inner working power of God to **Win the Character War**. When we are filled with God's fullness and nature we are filled with His character too.

Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
19: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

We do what we do in life regardless of our role or title based on our character and who we are on the inside.

Character actually defines you and even distinguishes you from the non-character norm.

Once you change your way of thinking that has

caused your character flaws you'll adopt a new way of acting, reacting, living, and behaving. See Ephesians 4:17-24 for specific details.

STUDY NOTES