

# LT2 Module 1 - The Heart of a Leader: Character

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## Video Outline and Notes

### Introduction:

Character influences **everything** we say and do.

King Saul did not have a failure of **competence** but of **character**.

(Story of King Saul is found in 1 Samuel 9-15)

King David is selected above others because, “The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the **heart**.”

(Story of King David is found in 1 Samuel 16 – 1 Kings 2)

The qualifications for elders and deacons (leaders in the church) in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 deal almost exclusively with character.

### Broad Inventory -

What makes you feel vulnerable?

What are you most proud of?

What are my self-defense mechanisms?

***Pause video and take 15-20 minutes to complete the inventory using Exercise Sheet below.***

### Outline -

- I.     Observing our character with others: Paying **attention** in everyday life
  - a. In the privacy of **my own home** (It's worth paying attention to what the people who know us best say about us and reflect back to us about ourselves.)
  - b. In our **working** environment (What would our work colleagues say about us, or would say about us if they were asked?)
  - c. When we are under **pressure** or in a **trial** (What do you see in yourself when you don't get your way, when something goes wrong or when someone hurts you or lets you down?)
- II.    Observing our character by our practices: What should we be looking for?
  - a. By the **words we say** (“The mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.”)
  - b. By the things we **watch** (To grow in character means we learn increasingly to monitor the various doorways to our heart.)

- c. By how we use our **body** (We often tend to underestimate how closely our inner lives – our hearts – are linked to what we do with our bodies.)
- d. By the state of our **relationships** (Harmonious relationships where we are good listeners, truly love, and are willing to give up our “rights” should be our goal.)
- e. What we do when we sin (Do we repent? Do we resist? Do we give up?)

Continue to exercise sheet.

## LT2 Module 1 - Exercise Sheet

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### **Step 1 (Exercise to be done during the video at specified time.)**

Pause the video at the appropriate time and engage this exercise. This should take between 15-20 minutes. Having a journal to write in may be helpful.

"First, ask God to help you see what makes you feel most vulnerable and most like running for cover. It may be conflict. Or perhaps it is failure, pain, emotional upset or loss of face. Allow yourself to feel the distress that would be present if you did not avoid these things. Then, listening to God's invitation to come out of the bushes in which you are hiding, step out and allow God to embrace you just as you are.

Second, prayerfully reflect on the image of yourself to which you are most attached. Consider how you like to think about yourself, what you are most proud of about yourself. Ask God to help you see the ways you use these things to defend against feelings of vulnerability. And then ask God to prepare you to trust enough to let go of these fig leaves of your personal style."

(Taken from The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery David G. Benner InterVarsity Press, 2009 P.89)

### **Step 2 (To be done at a time you choose.)**

On a regular basis, visit these passages in scripture to evaluate what area of character God is reshaping or desires to reshape in your heart. Pick ONE passage at a time and sit quietly with the Lord before you begin. The use of a journal is encouraged so that you may later see the progress God is making in your life!

Revisit this sheet again (at another date) and choose a different passage than the previous time. Each passage is a great option for heart change and character formation.

#### **Option 1**

##### **Psalm 51**

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.  
<sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.  
<sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.  
<sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.  
<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.  
<sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.  
<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.  
<sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.  
<sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.  
<sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.  
<sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion, to build up the walls of Jerusalem.  
<sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous, in burnt offerings offered whole; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

#### Questions:

- 1) Verse 3 says, “I know my transgressions...” Ask the Lord to bring to mind the sins you have committed and the things the Lord has asked you to do that you’ve avoided. What are these things? Ask the Lord to clean these areas of your heart. (verse 7)
- 2) In what ways has God’s unfailing love sustained you through challenging times? (verse 1)
- 3) What comes to your mind when you read, “restore to me the joy of your salvation?” What does that look like? (verse 12)
- 4) What can you praise God for right now? (verse 15)

#### Option 2

##### 1 Timothy 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.

<sup>2</sup> Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

<sup>3</sup> not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

<sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.

<sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

<sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

<sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup> In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.

<sup>9</sup> They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

<sup>10</sup> They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup> A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well

#### Questions:

- 1) The descriptions above are particularly given to elders (verse 1) and deacons (verse 8) in the church. However, the pursuit of what is "noble" (verse 1) should be a goal for all believers. Looking at verses 1 & 2, is there anything that God may be highlighting as an area of weakness? Ask the Lord to reveal where you have fallen short on these character traits. Ask the Lord to show you where you have grown in these areas.
- 2) Verse 9 speaks about having a clear conscience. Is your conscience heavy regarding any thought patterns or actions you've taken?
- 3) Have you been trustworthy, worthy of respect, and avoided malicious talk? (verse 11)

#### Option 3

##### Galatians 5:16-25

<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

<sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

<sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

<sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

<sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Questions:

- 1) Ask the Lord to lead you by his Spirit during your time with him. (verse 18) Spend time thanking the Lord for his sacrifice that enables us to live by and keep in step with his Spirit. (verse 25) What tangible steps have you made recently to follow the Spirit?
- 2) Have you fallen in the areas of sexual immorality, impurity, self-centeredness, hatred, jealousy, angry speech, ambition, or stirring trouble? (verses 19-20) Spend time with the Lord regarding any of these things. Ask for God's forgiveness and cleanse you of these things. If you recognize a pattern of sin in any of these areas, share it with your accountability partner for support.
- 3) Where have you been joyous? Where have you been peaceful? Where have you suffered without complaining? Where have you shown kindness? Where have you shown goodness and faithfulness? (verses 22-23)
- 4) Where do you want the Lord help you in the area of self-control? (verse 24)
- 5) What will it look like for you to "walk by the Spirit" this week? At home? At work? With family? As a leader? (verse 16) Share this with your accountability partner, a close friend, or spouse.

### **Step 3 (Daily review with God exercise.)**

To help stay in tune with our thoughts, feelings and actions over any given day, take a short period of time to reflect with God. Ask God to lead and guide you as you think back over the course of your day. Pick a regular time that you do this to aid in creating this habit. This exercise should only take about ten minutes.

Review your actions, conversations, thoughts, and feelings from the past 24 hours. Be mindful of any areas God may be highlighting. If you need to be reconciled to God for any actions or thoughts, simply admit that you were wrong, ask God for forgiveness, and thank him for his love. If you need to be reconciled to another person, then take time to repent, apologize, and be reconciled with them as soon as you are able.

God will use this to shape your heart more and more as you practice it!