**The Book Of Proverbs – Marks Of A Person Of Character**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* Today’s study goes well with the fact that we are going to take the Lord’s Supper together.
* **1 Cor. 11** does discuss the need to be people of character who deal with things before God.

**Five Marks Of A Person Of Character**

 

**A person of character has integrity – Pro. 10:9**

* Integrity is a choice. Integrity is living what you believe but those beliefs are rooted in objective truth.
* A person of integrity “walks securely.” “Walks” has to do with our behavior, our pattern of conduct.
* A person whose life, actions, and words are committed to doing right, will have “integrity” (completeness, wholeness). We follow what God says, we things right, and treat others fairly.
* People of integrity walk “securely.” We do not have to worry about being reprimanded by God or be looking over our should because we have nothing to hide.
* **Point:** Practice integrity. Have our life molded by a Biblical worldview.

**A person of character is trustworthy – Pro. 21:8**

* The way of the “guilty” (laden with guilt), their course of life, without a moral center is “crooked” (devious, twisted). They do not follow the path of God.
* In contrast, the “conduct” (good actions, things done) of the “pure” (righteous, clean, pure morals) is “upright” (morally right, pleasing) to the Lord.
* Point: We need to be people who others can trust. When we give our word it, keep it. When we say we will do something, fulfill it. And the things we do we line up with God’s ethics.

**A person of character is humble – Pro. 11:2**

* True humility is not comparing ourselves to others, but to God.
* “Pride” (insolence, presumptuousness) leads to “disgrace” (dishonor). Proud, arrogant, self-righteous people are so focused on themse3lves that they can be rude and disrespectful to others.
* **Point:** A humble person is open to wisdom because they see their need for God. They are submissive to God and willing to do what He asks. Humility requires a developing relationship with God.

**A person of character thinks before they speak – Pro. 17:27**

* The person who “restrains” (uses few) words has knowledge (discernment, wisdom, understanding).
* They think before they speak.
* A person of character measures whether what they think needs to be said.
* A person with a “cool spirit” (even-tempered) is wise. Both statements in **vs. 27** go together.
* What is in our heart eventually comes out. Jesus said that very thing in **Mk. 7**.
* **Point:** Use wisdom when speaking. We do not always have to speak our mind. Think and consider if our words are going to be helpful or do they need to be said. How will they be taken? Are we listening to the other person?

**A person of character is willing to learn – Pro. 19:20; Pro. 21:11**

* If we are honest with ourselves, we all have things to learn. No one knows everything.
* Note a couple of things from **Pro. 19:20**. First, be willing to listen to advice. The word “listen” is an admonition. The writer knows how important it is for us to listen. We take what is said to heart.
* The word “advice” means “good counsel, wisdom.” There are those we can learn from.
* Second, **vs. 20** tells us to “accept instruction.” Some people will listen and do nothing with what they heard. The word “accept” means “receive, take.”
* “Instruction” in **vs. 20** has the idea of correction, discipline. It is used at times to refer to wisdom and teaching that imply correcting errant behavior. We can learn where we need to improve in life.
* **Pro. 21:11** notes three types of people, all whose character is affected by their willingness to learn.
* First is the “scoffer.” This is the arrogant bragger. They put others down. They think they are better than others. They brag about their accomplishments. They may think morals do not apply to them.
* Second is the “simple.” This is not a putdown as if people are dumb. This person may be naïve about things, or open-minded to the point where they are easily led astray or open to learning truth.
* Third is the “wise.” When they are instructed, they gain “knowledge.” They want to learn, to be corrected and to grow in their faith. We gain insights from God’s Word and apply them.
* The wise person develops a Biblical worldview. People of character are learners, pure and simple.