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EMANUEL EXPRESS NEWS

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JUNE 2012



BUILDING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I trust that you and your family are doing well and that the blessings of the Lord are rich in your lives.

Our ministry theme for the month of June in Character or Christian Character. The dictionary defines character as the aggregate of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing. It is also defined as moral or ethical qualities or specifically qualities of honesty, courage, or integrity. Finally character is also defined as one's reputation.

When we think of Christian character, we think of embodying the moral and ethical qualities that our Lord and savior Jesus Christ exemplified while He was on this earth. In other words Christian Character is to be Christ Like.

After dating they eventually got married. On their honeymoon night, as they prepared for the moment they had been waiting for, the bride, pulled off her wig, false eyelashes, popped out her false eye and put her false teeth on the night stand.

As human beings we can be very pos-

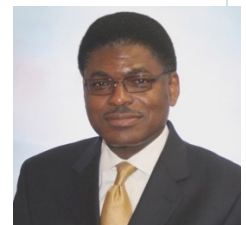
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SAVE THE DATE: FIRST JURISDICTION ILLINOIS STATE AIM CONVENTION JULY 11TH - 14TH, 2012

ST. PAUL C.O.G.I.C. - 4526 S. WABASH—CHICAGO, IL
BISHOP CHARLES M. FORD, HOST PASTOR
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BISHOP OCIE BOOKER, PRELATE



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As she continued reaching to remove more false apparatuses, the groom at this point was so taken by everything that had just unfolded before his eyes that he cried out in desperation for the only thing that appeared to be real. He shouted "Sing, Woman Sing!

It is nothing wrong with enhancing the outer appearance, or to look or be at your best. There are indeed great benefits. Someone said, if you want close friends, begin by brushing your teeth, taking a bath, putting on deodorant and some clean clothes. Though this maybe a starting point to obtain close friends, if your character is messed up, dingy, dirty, offensive and obnoxious, your chances of finding any friends will be nearly impossible. The best suggestion for obtaining close or true friends is found in Proverbs 18:24 ***A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly.*** That's character!

Again, there is nothing wrong with enhancing our outer appearance, but we should also apply the same required effort and sacrifice to build and develop our inner character and inner beauty. The reality is that while everyone can see your face, only you and God sees your heart. At the end of the day what matters most is not so much what others see on the outside, but how you measure up on the inside.

Achieving and developing Christian Character is not an easy feat. It is not developed overnight, but over time. We cannot achieve it on our own, but we need help. Just like we need the help of a barber, a hair stylist, a tailor, a fashion advisor, a fitness trainer or physician to look our best, feel our best or be at our best, we need the help of the Lord to achieve, develop and build Christian Character. Like a barber, He may have to cut. Like a stylist, He may have to press. Like a tailor, He may have to take in and let out. Like a fashion advisor, He may have to bring order. Like a fitness trainer He will need to work in you both to will and to do His good pleasure. And like a physician He may need to provide healing, comfort and restoration.

*A man that hath
friends must
shew himself
friendly.*

Proverbs 18:24

In other words God helps us to build Christian character through, challenges, temptations, trials and even suffering. If we submit ourselves to Him and trust Him while He takes us through the process (like we do our barber and hair stylist), we will ultimately become more and more like Christ.

The story is told of a group of women that met for Bible study. While studying in the book of Malachi, chapter three, they came across verse three which says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled the women and they wondered how this statement applied to the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out more about the process of refining silver, and to get back to the group at their next Bible study. The following week, the woman called up a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him while at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest, beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith work, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire, where the flames



Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones. -Phillips Brooks

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were the hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, then she thought again about the verse, that "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the entire time the silver was being refined. The man answered yes, that not only did he have to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on it the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "But how do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy--when I see my image in it."

Romans 5:3-5 reads "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. NLV

I wish to challenge you during the month of June, to submit yourself to God's process of Character Building. The results will amaze you. You will look better than you ever dreamed or imagined. In fact when people see the new you they will see more than just you, but the image of Christ radiating through you!

Be Blessed,

Pastor Richardson



char·ac·ter [kar-ik-ter]

1. the aggregate of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing.
2. one such feature or trait; characteristic.
3. moral or ethical quality: *a man of fine, honorable character.*
4. qualities of honesty, courage, or the like; integrity: *It takes character to face up to a bully*
5. reputation: *a stain on one's character*