

GROWING IN CHRIST LIKENESS

EPHESIANS 4:14-16



THE WORD
OF GOD
IS LIKE
A SEED.
PLANT IT
IN YOUR
HEART.

1 Peter 1:23

LESSONS 5–8

WEST JACKSONVILLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

CATHEDRAL OF FAITH CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

BISHOP GARY L. HALL, SR.

LESSON FIVE

GENEROSITY VS. STINGINESS

Carefully managing my resources so

I can freely give to those in need.

Character Thought: Always be ready to identify and meet the needs around you.

Character Scripture: But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity for God loveth a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Character Points:

Pass It On

- ✱ Develop Resources (We must invest ourselves in the task at hand)
- ✱ Focus on Needs (Show generosity in the way we conduct ordinary business)
- ✱ Discern the Best Solution (Seek to benefit others in ways appropriate to their needs)

Balance Generosity

- ✱ Give Sincerely (Be eager to do what is right with transparent motives)
- ✱ Exercise Punctuality (Show esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time)
- ✱ Give Discretely (Avoid words, actions, attitudes that bring undesirable consequences)

Five Keys to Building Generosity

- ☒ Identify a Need
- ☒ Share your Resources
- ☒ Give of Yourself
- ☒ Invest in Others

Generosity at Home

Beyond the Gift (Learn how to invest in others)

- ☒ Help one another finish projects that require more than one person
- ☒ Avoid spending too much money on things that will not benefit the whole family
- ☒ Focus on providing for needs, even if it means postponing the satisfaction of wants
- ☒ Complete work on time so that you can help the rest of the family with their work.
- ☒ Manage personal free time so that you can join in activities with other family members.

Evaluate Your Generosity

- ☒ Do you manage your resources in a way that allows you to be generous?
- ☒ Do you take time to identify and understand others' needs?
- ☒ Do you carefully determine the best use for your resources?
- ☒ Would those around you say you give freely?
- ☒ Do you see the potential in others and encourage them to reach it?

LESSON SIX

ORDERLINESS VS. CONFUSION

Arranging myself and my surroundings
to achieve greater efficiency.

Character Thought: Save time by establishing a good system of organization.

Character Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:44 James 3:3

CHARACTER POINTS

Simply Organized

- **Analyze the Situation** (before something can be ordered, its purpose must be understood)
- **Organize Elements** (before everything can be put in its place, everything must have a place)
- **Maintain Order** (establish effective procedures, exercise steady commitment)

Balance Orderliness

Organize and Reorganize Patiently

(Patience is accepting a difficult situation without giving a deadline to remove it)

Maintain Flexibility

(Flexibility is willingness to change plans or ideas according to the direction of my authorities)

Get the Job Done Diligently

(Diligence is investing my time and energy to complete each task assigned to me)

(having your surroundings in good order will give you a sense of mental relief)

Five Keys to Building Orderliness

Set Priorities

(orderliness is not just about stuff it is also about time)

Set Standards

(identify the cause of disorder and develop workable solutions)

Get Organized

(when you spend two or three minutes trying to remember
where you put something you are wasting precious time)

Avoid Clutter

(increase efficiency by organizing your thoughts and surroundings)

Put Away, Right Away

(consistency is vital, maintain orderliness as you go)

Orderliness at Home

Commit to Orderliness

(orderliness will never “just happen” it takes a concerted effort)

Clean as You Go

(having your surroundings in good order will give you a sense of mental relief)

Exemplify Orderliness

(your life will speak volumes more than anything you say)

Evaluate Your Orderliness

- When you are done with something, do you put it away?
- Do you have a method by which to set and balance personal, family, and work goals?
- Would those who know you best say that you are orderly?
- Have you established standard operating procedures both on and off the job?
- Is your life marked by clutter and chaos, or order and purpose?

LESSON SEVEN

FORGIVENESS VS. INTOLERANCE

*Clearing the record of those who have
wronged me and not holding a grudge.*

CHARACTER THOUGHT:

Respond constructively to the mistakes and misfortunes of life.

CHARACTER SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:21-22

RISE ABOVE (Overcome offenses and move forward with life)

◇ **ACKNOWLEDGE REALITY**

(before you can forgive you must acknowledge the reality
of the offense)

◇ **BEGIN HEALING**

(consciously release the offender)

◇ **CONTINUE LIFE**

(a commitment to forgive requires daily practice)

BALANCE FORGIVENESS

◇ **RECOGNIZE JUSTICE**

(when you forgive you no longer seek personal retaliation)

◇ **PRACTICE TOLERANCE**

(realize that everyone is at varying levels of character development)

◇ **RESTORE WISELY**

(it takes wisdom to know how to best restore a person)

FIVE KEYS TO BUILDING FORGIVENESS

- ◇ Let Go of Anger
- ◇ Talk About It
- ◇ Heal the Wounds
- ◇ Forget the Wrong
- ◇ Move On

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF FORGIVENESS IN THE HOME

- ◇ Discuss personal differences in order to learn more about one another's needs.
- ◇ As a parent, discipline disobedient children so that they can become better individuals, not because they embarrass or inconvenience you.
- ◇ Talk to one another about hurts instead of allowing them to fester.
- ◇ Respond to rudeness with kindness.

EVALUATE YOUR FORGIVENESS

- ◇ Do you control your anger when others offend you?
- ◇ Do you talk about problems, or do you cover them up and allow them to fester in your mind?
- ◇ Are you willing to invest time and energy to restore relationships?
- ◇ Do you release the hurts you have experienced?
- ◇ Do you seek revenge?

LESSON EIGHT

SINCERITY VS. HYPOCRISY

Sincerity: Eagerness to do what is right with transparent motives

CHARACTER SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19:14

CHARACTER THOUGHT: Maintain consistency in your words, actions, attitudes

AUTHENTIC INTEGRITY

BE HONEST

Sincerity recognizes mixed motives, addresses what is wrong and acts on what is right.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Sincere actions become possible only when you take responsibility for your mindset and attitudes

MAINTAIN A CLEAR PURPOSE

Whatever the situation, make it your habit to intentionally do what is right.

BALANCE SINCERITY

SPEAK AND ACT WITH DISCRETION

Choose your words, actions and timing carefully so that you can accomplish your mission and avoid misunderstanding.

PRACTICE DEFERENCE

Deference demonstrates respect for others and their perspective

EXERCISE JOYFULNESS

Maintain a positive attitude as you fulfill your commitments, even when it contradicts how you feel at the moment.

5 STEPS TO BUILDING SINCERITY

- ◆ Say What You Mean
- ◆ Mean What You Say
- ◆ Practice what you preach
- ◆ Reject Hypocrisy
- ◆ Show Your True Colors

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR SINCERITY AT HOME

- ◆ Treat family members at home the same way you treat them in public with respect and love.
- ◆ Uphold the same standards at home that you endorse in public
- ◆ Encourage children to behave in a way their parents approve, even when parents are not nearby.
- ◆ Respect and honor your spouse, even when you are not together.
- ◆ When discussing others show the same respect you would show if they were there.

EVALUATE YOUR SINCERITY

- ◆ Do you consider how you say things, or do you expect others to understand you?
- ◆ Could your words and actions give others a false impression?
- ◆ Would others say that you live up to your ideas?
- ◆ Do you make excuses to avoid doing what is right?
- ◆ Are your words and actions consistent, or do you change when people and circumstances change?