

# Developing Disposition: Acquiring Desirable Personality Traits

## Getting focused

Your personality is defined by the totality of qualities and traits which are uniquely yours. It is determined by the distinctive qualities and characteristics you demonstrate consistently by your temperamental, emotional, and mental disposition. Wisdom is not realized by introspection but perceived through personality traits which demonstrate the principles taught in God's word.

The forthcoming chapters illuminate characteristics that each of us ought to possess: reserved, yet bold; confident, but controlled. As we draw near the end of this book of wisdom we will note some of the preceding instructions are repeated for emphasis. However, in this lesson we will attempt to apply certain traits to our personality. In so doing we will obtain our goal of perceiving the words of wisdom, recognizing the obstacles and pitfalls that would do us harm. Having our hearts filled with confidence, vision, and courage, we are blessed of God and become a blessing to others. "Happy is the man who is always reverent" (28:14).

A great maxim will introduce this study which is critical to true godly wisdom: "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth" (27:1). Assimilation of this single precept will remove the most undesirable personality trait known to man—vain pride.

## Know your place, speak your piece, and plan with purpose

*Read Proverbs 27*

Let us draw three significant points from this chapter that are relevant to what constitutes our personality.

1. Developing and maintaining the proper environment to reflect the kind of person we are or desire to be (v. 8)
2. Having proper communication skills to produce a positive effect on those with whom we come in contact (v. 17)

"As iron  
**sharpens**  
iron, so a man  
sharpens the  
**countenance**  
of his friend."  
- Proverbs 27:17

## Memorize and meditate

“A man is  
valued by  
what others  
say of him.”

- Proverbs 27:21b

3. Making provisions for those whom you are responsible (vs. 23, 27)

Identifying certain negative traits revealed in this text will help us to avoid them. It is important to realize that though we may possess several positive characteristics, one negative quality can effect our whole persona.

- Do not be a braggart (v. 2).
- Do not conceal things that deeply effect you (v. 5).
- Do not be gullible (vs. 12-13).
- Do not be loud, obnoxious, or argumentative (vs. 14-15).

Listening to what others have to say will enable us to learn much about ourselves. Though we may perceive criticism to be unjustified, it is important to analyze the perceptions of others and examine ourselves in light of them (vs. 19, 21).

### **The distinguished personality of the righteous**

*Read Proverbs 28*

All have the desire to be right. Many determine right by means of self-justification. The standard of divine righteousness is absolute and flawless. It brings joy, happiness, and peace of mind. The result of making application of the precepts of God produces a multitude of desirable personality traits.

It is imperative that the foundation for developing our personality traits begins with hearing the law (v. 9). Though we may possess a “prayerful” disposition, if we fail to listen and respond to God’s word we are reprehensible. In contrast, those who open their hearts to divine instruction acquire:

- Confidence in oneself and courage to face the future (vs. 1-2)
- Perceptive insight, enabling one to make correct decisions in life—the essence of wisdom (v. 5)
- Strength to acknowledge and overcome transgressions (vs. 13, 26)
- Impartiality and the ability to judge the character of others (v. 21)
- Generosity and a benevolent disposition that is a blessing to others (v. 27)

## **The effect of your positive personality on others**

*Read Proverbs 29*

To possess desirable personality traits magnifies our ability to positively affect the lives of others. It must be noted that our effectiveness is contingent upon our living in accordance with God's will. Also, verses 1 and 15 explain that the development of this personality is not without difficult instruction.

One of the greatest gifts of wisdom is the ability to touch the lives of others in a positive manner. So beautifully illustrated in this chapter is the result produced by the influence of the righteous. The people rejoice (v. 2); the righteous sings and rejoices (v. 6).

In righteousness there is:

- Stability and victory over evil (vs. 14, 16)
- Happiness (v. 18)
- Honor (v. 23)
- Security (v. 25)

It is important to realize that though we have become the kind of person God would have us to be, we will not be liked by every one. There are those who oppose good. To them, you are deplorable (v. 27). Recognize there are two elements that exist in opposition to one another: good against evil, the upright against the unjust, truth against error. When we stand in the wisdom of God, the foolishness of man will oppose us.

## **Questions to consider**

1. Why is an open rebuke better than concealed love (27:5)? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How can one's prayer be an abomination? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Name three desirable personality traits we need to acquire. \_\_\_\_\_

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