

# The Godly Man as Christ's Representative

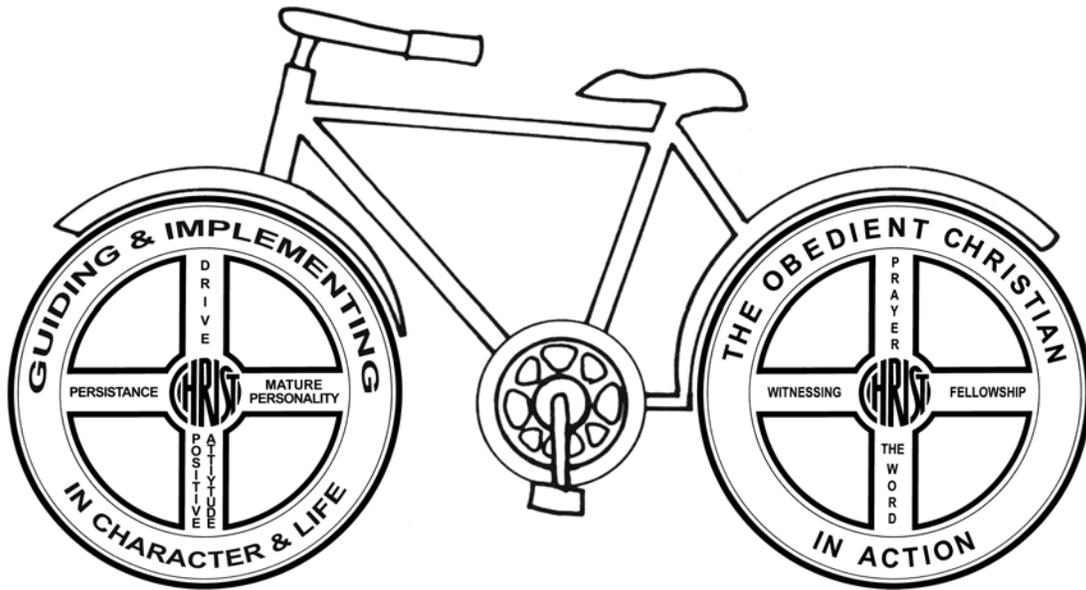
## Character & Guidance System of a Disciple

### Moving Toward Maturity

It is possible to live the first year of the Christian life 20 times, rather than living 20 years of the Christian life! To insure that this does not happen, a disciple needs to do two things: (1) to acquire basic skills through a daily, habitual walk with God, and (2) to approach all of life in terms of definite goals and a specific system of guidance.

David exemplified this dual life-purpose in a powerful way. Asaph wrote of him, "God chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them" (Psalm 78:70-72, NIV). David was able to skillfully lead the people only because he sought God daily. He was able to shepherd them with integrity only insofar as he followed the laws and principles of God.

In many ways, successfully living the Christian life is like learning to ride a bicycle. The back wheel of the bicycle might represent the basics of a disciple's life-the daily disciplines which require commitment and "skillful hands." The front wheel of the bicycle would represent the disciple's character and guidance system-the "integrity of heart" so vital to a maturing Christian's life.



**Definitions** - Before answering the following questions, firmly fix these definitions in your mind:

- **Positive Attitude:** Not negative; positive disposition and outlook.
- **Persistence:** Endurance; perseverance; not quitting or being sidetracked.
- **Drive:** Taking positive action, as an act of the will; not pampering the flesh and letting emotions or feelings control you; being highly motivated.
- **Mature Personality:** Full-grown; completely developed in one's individuality and disposition.

**Character and Guidance System of a Disciple**

1. Write the key thought you see in each of the following Scriptures.

- Philippians 4:8 .....
- Joshua 14:10-12 .....
- Hebrews 10:36 .....
- I Corinthians 16:13 .....
- Ephesians 4:13 .....
- Colossians 1:18 .....
- II Corinthians 10:5 .....
- Psalms 18:29 .....
- Revelation 2:10 .....
- II Corinthians 4:16 .....
- Galatians 4:19 .....
- II Corinthians 3:18 .....
- Philippians 1:21 .....

2. Place the above Scripture references under the proper heading below.

**Positive Attitude**

**Drive**

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**Persistence**

**Mature Personality**

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3. Many factors combine to determine the character and guidance system of a disciple. Read the Scripture then place each of the traits of character in one of the four categories listed below:

Reliance on Christ	II Corinthians 3:5
Faith in Christ	Philippians 4:13
Trust in Christ	Job 23:10
Dependance on Christ	Romans 8:28
Expectancy	Philippians 4:19
Cheerfulness	Proverbs 15:15
Enthusiasm	Joshua 6:20
Initiative	I Samuel 14:6
Decisiveness	James 1:8
Faithfulness	Luke 16:10
Patience	Hebrews 6:15
Steadfastness	Ephesians 6:13
Courage	Daniel 3:16-18
Self Control	I Corinthians 9:26-27
Servant Heart	I Corinthians 9:19
Submissiveness to Authority	I Peter 5:5-6
Teachableness	Proverbs 10:8
Peacemaker	Psalms 133:1
Acceptance of Others	I Corinthians 4:5
Humility	Philippians 2:3-4

**Positive Attitude**

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**Drive**

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**Persistence**

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**Mature Personality**

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4. While it is true that God has made each of us different and unique in personality, it is equally true that there are certain qualities we all need. Which two of the four categories would you most like to see strengthened in your own life? .....

Why these two? .....

The Christian life is like riding a bicycle in many respects. If you don't move on, you will fall off. There are three main areas which cause people to falter in their Christian walk. They are the psychological, physical and the spiritual. A number of problems are caused because Christians lack a basic understanding of the emotional facts of what it means to walk with God.

**Psychological Factors (*Mental or Emotional*)**

Walking with God does not mean that we will always have perfect peace. II Corinthians 6:10. Further, psychological conflict is not abnormal or sinful, but failure to resolve the conflict may be.

5. Match the scripture references with the psychological problems which can cause people to “fall off” in the Christian life.



YOU'RE BOUND TO HEAR A DISCOURAGING WORD SOMETIMES.

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (...) Wrong mind set              | 1. I Corinthians 13:1-3 |
| (...) Fear                        | 2. I John 2:15-16       |
| (...) Production oriented         | 3. II Timothy 1:7       |
| (...) Worldliness                 | 4. Hebrews 12:1, 2A     |
| (...) Guilt                       | 5. Romans 13:1-2        |
| (...) Disappointment with God     | 6. John 5:44            |
| (...) Disappointment with others  | 7. Hebrews 12:15        |
| (...) Disappointment with self    | 8. Psalm 12:1, 2LB      |
| (...) Playing to wrong audience   | 9. Romans 7:15          |
| (...) Bitterness                  | 10. Psalm 38:4          |
| (...) Rebellion against authority | 11. Romans 9:20         |



6. Select two from the above list and explain in your own words how you would deal with them in your life or the life of another: .....

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**Physical Factors**

7. An ineffective Christian walk may sometimes be traced to a physical root. List some of these causes below and their solutions:

<i>Causes</i>	<i>Solutions</i>
Psalm 102:3-5.....	Proverbs 18:14; Psalm 4:1-5.....
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Psalm 127:2.....	I Corinthians 6:19, 20.....
.....	.....
Proverbs 13:4.....	Proverbs 6:6-8.....
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Proverbs 6:9-11.....	Proverbs 10:4, 5; 20:13.....
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**Spiritual Factors**

8. The psychological, physical, and spiritual lives are interdependent in most people. A few spiritual warnings are to be found in the following verses - name them.

- I Corinthians 15:33 .....
- Proverbs 21:5 .....
- James 3:5-10 .....
- I Corinthians 10:12 .....
- John 15:5 .....
- I Peter 2:1,2 .....
- I Corinthians 4:7 .....
- I Peter 5:8 .....
- I Peter 5:5,6 .....

**Helpful Remedies**

9. The following remedies may be helpful in encouraging you to maintain balance and momentum in your Christian life:

- a. Make a genuine and total commitment of your life to God.
- b. Apply the necessary disciplines to walk with God in His Word, prayer and keeping short accounts with Him (keeping known sins confessed).
- c. Faith in the following:
  - 1) The sovereignty of God (He is in control) Psalm 115:3.
  - 2) The power of God (He can do anything) Jeremiah 32:17.
  - 3) The knowledge of God (He knows what is going on) Hebrews 4:13.
  - 4) He is personally interested in you. John 10:3, 4; Luke 12:7.
- d. Maintain the vessel. I Corinthians 9:26, 27. (A person in good physical and psychological condition will be in better shape spiritually).
- e. Be submissive to God rather than rebellious. James 4:6, 7.
- f. Determine daily to be obedient to Him. I Samuel 15:22, 23; I Peter 3:10,11.
- g. Determine to put to use any truth you learn (walk in the light) I John 1:7.
- h. Determine to profit from discipline or testing. Hebrews 5:8, Hebrews 12:6, Revelation 3:19.
- i. Have a goal of becoming spiritually educated through Bible study. Colossians 1:9, 10, Colossians 2:2, 3.
- j. Permit yourself to be exhorted or rebuked by other Christians when needed. Galatians 6:1, I Timothy 5:20, Hebrews 10:25.
- k. Acquire the habit of intelligent and bold prayer. Ephesians 6:18.
- l. Fight the good fight of faith. Proverbs 3:5, I Peter 4:19, I Peter 5:7.

**Application**

10. Review the 12 suggestions and list the two you feel are most needed in your life at this time .....

11. How, spiritually, do you fail in these two areas? .....

a. What will you do about them this coming week? .....

b. How will you check up on yourself? .....

**Suggestions for Further Study**

Tape BSU155A - Characteristics of a Disciple, Gene Warr

Spirit-Controlled Temperament and Transformed Temperaments, by Dr. Tim LaHaye, Tyndale House