

Character/Witness: Put Into Practice

Philippians 4:8-9

Jan. 05, 2020

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. How do you feel about New Year's resolutions? Why do you think that it is so difficult to keep them?
2. When you think about this upcoming year, are any of your personal aspirations or hopes related to your character? Why is this sometimes an area that we don't pay as much attention to?
3. Which characteristic(s) do you think people would most attribute to you?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Jason says that the early church's organic growth was fueled by outsider's attraction and curiosity to the character of these first generation believers (feel free to read Acts 2:42-27). What do you think impacted these Christians that made such a difference?
2. Read through Philippians 4:8. Each upcoming Sunday will focus on one of these "virtues". As we begin, what does each mean to you? How might they be exhibited in a person's life? How do these reflect the nature of God?
3. Throughout the Old Testament, the ancient biblical characters would refer to God by one of His characteristics? Why would they not just say, "God"?
4. Why is transformation as much an action of grace as forgiveness is? Why is wanting to be like God in character potentially transformative?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Today, is character enough to draw people to God? Aren't there those who don't follow Jesus who have character? What, then, is the distinction?
2. Does it feel like a blessing or a burden to be a character witness for God?
3. Exercise for your group: Go around the room and add to the names of each of those present a positive characteristic that describes them. For example: "Jon-the-Hospitable".
4. What characteristics drew you to EBCLA? How can we continue to embody those corporate "virtues" to those around us?