

# Pt 3: Character Guardrails

**Observation # 1:** We expect and value good character in those whom we associate with, work with and live with.

**Observation # 2:** We are disappointed in those same people when they display a lack of character and don't live up to **our** expectations.

**Problem # 1:** Irresponsibility is easily seen in others, but my irresponsibility is hard for me to see in the mirror!

**Problem # 2:** Our society promotes achievement and ambition over good character and integrity.

- Society rewards achievement!  
**God rewards character before achievement!**
- When we choose achievement and ambition over character and integrity, the key area of our lives that suffers the most, is our relationships.

## Character is the oil of relationships!

- Extract the oil of character from any relationship, regardless of how perfectly the two people are suited, and eventually there will be dysfunction or a total breakdown.
- People that were designed for each other, minus the oil of character, destroy one another!
- **Definition of Godly Character:** *"Godly character is the will to do what is right as God defines right, regardless of the cost!"*
- God desires us to do what is right because it honours and pleases Him.

*Proverbs 11:1-3 (net) The Lord abhors (loathes, detests, despises) dishonest scales...*

- The idea behind this word *"abhors"* in the original Hebrew writing is a *'gut wrenching hatred'* for dishonest scales.
- There is something in us that attracts us to dishonesty especially when it benefits us.
- God dislikes anyone who acts dishonestly at the expense of somebody else.

*1: The Lord abhors dishonest scales an accurate weight is His delight.*

## God delights in our honesty.

*2: When pride comes, then comes disgrace, (there are always negative consequences to pride) but with humility comes wisdom.*

## God rewards humility with wisdom.

- Humility is viewing ourselves and our achievements through the lens of who God is in our lives.
- As a follower of Christ our goal is to please God with our life.

*3: The integrity* (The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles, moral uprightness - the state of being whole and undivided – words and actions are the same.) *of the upright guides them...*

- God's will is found in the pursuit of Godly character and integrity by simply doing what is right in God's eyes!
- Once our inner world is solid and secure, generally our outer world will take care of itself!

*3: ...but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.*

## People suffer the consequences of not pursuing Godly character.

- *Proverbs 11:1-3* declares that God desires a better life for those who are suffering the consequences of not pursuing Godly character.
- God responds to us in three ways when we pursue godly character over achievement, accomplishment, pleasure and fulfilment;
  1. He will delight in us when we are honest.
  2. He will give us wisdom when we are humble.
  3. He will guide us as we pursue integrity of character.

## Jesus models the character that God wants in us.

*Romans 8:29a (nlt)* For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son...

- The character of Jesus is not something we can manufacture but it is something that is produced in and through us.
- As we **allow** Jesus to live through us, our character will reflect His!
- **This transformation is a life-long process through an intimate and life-giving relationship with Jesus.**

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (mev)* Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Look, all things have become new.

- "Lord, give me the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do what is right, no matter what!"