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College Notes-Character Building

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COLLEGE NOTES

"CHARACTER BUILDING"

Chapel C C College--May 15, 1929

You are engaged in the greatest enterprise that is given to man to engage in - the building of a noble character.

When you have formed a ^{noble} ~~manly~~ character you will have enriched your life as no acquisition of wealth, position and worldly power can do. It is the highest and noblest possession of life. It will do for you far more than any thing else you may possess.

I tell you this even while you see worthless young people living in luxury and men void of character occupying high positions. Men of character are the salt, the saving grace of human society, and accomplish that which wealth, or even genius, cannot.

Be careful how you build. Build on a rock foundation, not on sand. Put in no poor or rotten material. If you do when the testing time comes, and it surely will, you will fall. Ed Chandler

We are told that character is human nature in its best form. It is moral fibre woven into the individual.

Men of character are not only the conscience of society, but in every well governed State they are the best motive power.

Napoleon said that even in war the moral is to the physical as ten to one.

The strength, the industry and the civilization of nations all depend upon individual character. Your social and family life, as well as your business or professional life depends upon your character.

Although a man may have comparatively little culture, but little genius and not much wealth, if he has a noble character he will always command an influence with his fellows.

A great English statesman said, "My road must be through character to power; I will try no other course; and I am sanguine enough to believe that this course, tho' not perhaps the quickest, is the surest".

There is a tendency to applaud mere smartness and cleverness. You may admire men of genius and intellect, but there is something more necessary before you trust them. They must have character, the chief element perhaps is integrity.

Three men came into my office, etc.

Franklin attributed his success as a public man not to his talents or his powers of speaking, but to his known integrity of character.

I have engaged much because had in a measure this 2. quality - Honesty

That character is power is true in a much higher sense than that knowledge is power. You may have a mind ripe in knowledge and be exceedingly clever and if without heart or goodness, you will be a dangerous man.

* Man who forged my name. - *Three can't to my office*

Another, an exceedingly smart driver, etc.

Three can't to my office
You have to build your own character. You may have help as you have here in C.C.C., but after all, you must do the job.

* God makes capacity. Gives you natural abilities, but you must make your own character.

A man whose looks were spoken of contemptuously said, "You've no right to find fault with my looks, I'm just as God made me". I know it, and that is what I am blaming you for" - said his critic. "You've never made any improvement upon yourself".

If the Lord has put us at the bottom of the hill, we must climb to the top. *Process of climbing*

* In the parable it was the man who retained just what his Lord gave him and ready to give it back at the day of reckoning, who not only lost his possessions, but cast into outer darkness.

The Century Dictionary defines character as "the sum

of the inherited acquired ethical traits which gives to a person his moral individuality".

Character

It is a composition of good qualities, such as integrity, truthfulness, self-respect, industry, kindness, gentleness, good habits, goodmorals and good man-ners.

All of you are building character. You began this when boys and girls. The process is going on whether playing, dreaming or working. Wherever you are or what you may be doing, you must carry on this sublime work.

If earlier in life you have done some poor work, used questionable material, begin now and in earnest to rebuild rightly. You are old enough to be thoughtful. You will be judged both here and hereafter by the character you have. built.

He that is good will infallibly become better and he that is bad will as certainly become worse, for vice, virtue and time are three things that never stand still.

would be that
I mention all the qualities that go to make character.

All are important.

I want to impress upon you the importance of forming good habits, for character may be strengthened and supported by good habits.

One philosopher said - "All is habit in mankind, even virtue itself.

Another impresses the importance of self-discipline and firm resistance to temptation, as tending to make virtue habitual, so that at length it may be easier to be good than to give way to sin".

We cannot over-estimate the power of habit, and too carefully guard against evil habits, for character is always weakest at that point at which it has once given way.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

A wise man said to a young man - "Remember, before you are five and twenty, you must establish a character that will serve you all your life.

The latter half of life is determined by habits-formed in earlier years.

Seldom much change after 25 or 30, except in going farther the way they started

The law of the harvest is to reap more than you sow. Sow an act & you reap a habit; Sow a habit & you reap a character; Sow a character & you reap a destiny.

Johnson said "The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt till they are too strong to be broken"

Form the habit of sacredly regarding the truth, respecting the rights of others of industry, providence, courtesy, temperance, of being happy, gentle, clean in life & speech, good manners, ^{physical exercise} attendance at church, ^{admit boys} courage, ^{any night} reading Bible, praying, ^{any night}

Avoid any bad habits - smoking, telling questionable stories, slang.

Friend wanted her husband 10 minutes
Looked comfortable - etc.