

## CHARACTER & POWER

### *Marrying Character, Receiving Power*

**FOUNDATION STATEMENT:** If the church is going to walk in the power of God and fulfill its mandate in the Earth, then it must qualify itself for the power God by developing in the character of love

#### **I. If the church is going to walk in the power of God, we must commit to the character of love**

- A. Ephesians 4:1-3 – Lowliness – Humility – Submitting to God and His Word whether you feel like it or not
  - 1. This is a commandment, not a suggestion, God told me to do it and I’m going to walk in love whether I feel like it or not
  - 2. Children give reasons and make excuses for why they didn’t do what they knew was right
    - a. Part of developing in character and growing up to stop making excuses for violating the commandment
    - b. There is no good excuse or reason for violating the commandment of love
  - 3. God can work with the person who comes to him and says, “Lord this person hurt me, but you commanded me to love them, so I’m going to love them no matter how hard it is.” God can’t work with a person who makes excuses.
- B. Committing to character is swearing to your own hurt and changing not (Psalm 15:1-5)
  - 1. No matter how uncomfortable it is for me to keep this commandment I’m going to keep it
    - a. Matthew 26:37-45, Luke 22:41-44 – Blood came out of Jesus’ pores and he wouldn’t change, he would violate the character of love
      - 1) Character is when pressure is put on you, you don’t cave under the pressure
    - b. God could trust Jesus to misuse or mishandle the power because Jesus proved himself with character
      - 1) Luke 12:48 – To whom much is given much is required; we’ve wanted much to be given, but little to be required
- C. A person who commits to the character of love, will see the power of God show up in their life (Daniel 3:6,14-25)
  - 1. Exodus 20:3-5 – They had a commandment to not bow down to any other gods
    - a. Making an excuse for why they bowed isn’t going to be a good reason to bow
    - b. They said, “We’ll smell our own flesh burn before we bow down and serve your god.”
  - 2. When somebody showed up in character, God showed up in power
    - a. What if the church would show up in character?

3. People who commit to the character of love will never fail because they'll always be backed by the power of God

## II. Form, but no power

- A. Because the church has neglected the character of love, we haven't walked in the power of God and we've had a lot of form, but we haven't seen a lot of genuine results (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
  1. Power is what's necessary to see change and character is what's necessary to see power
    - a. EX: Where's the cities being changed and nations being changed
- B. We left the power of God at the altar when we refused to marry the character of love
  1. The question is not what powerful thing is God going to do through the church this year, but will the church finally marry the character of love this year?
    - a. God's proposing and saying will you marry this character of love? Will you commit to it for life? Will you stay with it no matter what happens, no matter how they treat you, and no matter how hard it gets?
    - b. Somewhere along the line the church has been deceived into thinking that we could divorce the character of love and still walk in the power of God.
  2. Before there's ever going to be a release and operation of power, There's first of all going to be a call for character
    - a. Who's going to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength (resources)?
    - b. Who's going to extend the same love towards others that the Father has extend towards them (John 13:34)?
    - c. Satan has gotten us to neglect this commandment in our deception that we got "it" and most believers don't even know what "it" is
- C. Their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession (AMP) – They say the love God with their mouth, but their conduct and character says something else
  1. Just because you say you love God doesn't PROVE that you love God
    - a. John 14:15, 1 John 5:3 – If you really love God you do what he says
    - b. 1 John 4:20 – If you really love God you love your neighbor
  2. 3 areas where the church has sorely missed it is 1) Loving one another 2) Church attendance 3) The tithe
- D. God's has to work through the church if we're going to see the kind of results that the church is capable of producing
  1. John 14:10 – The Father (who is Love) who was in Jesus was doing the works
    - a. John 16:7, Romans 5:5 – The same father that was in him is in us
      - 1) If love is not working in me and through me, then God is not working in me and through me

2. God can only work through you (the church) in power to the degree that he works through the church in the character of love (Ephesians 3:14-20)
  - a. God is only able to do according to the power that works in us
    - 1) If the power of love is not working in us, then God can do nothing through us
- E. Every temptation in life is a temptation to get you out of the character of love because Satan knows if he can disrupt you in character, he can disrupt you in power and keep you from being victorious on the Earth
  1. Genesis 3:1-6--Adam and Eve failed the character test and when they did, they lost the power of God