

CHARACTER, GRACE AND RELATIONSHIPS

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Recently, I spoke briefly about character and the uniqueness we each bring to the expression of God's heart. Although this uniqueness is true for each of us, there is a challenge that accompanies that uniqueness as well. Paul expresses in I Timothy 1:12-13a "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was a blasphemer (one whose speech injures), a persecutor and an insolent (violently arrogant) man ..." (NKJ) Paul's awareness of how evil his personality could be was the thing that freed him to be the apostle that he was. All that he was became an expression of God's truth, accountability, reconciliation and grace. Beyond his awareness came the decision of what he would do with the new awareness of his sin-filled self. His choice was to embrace it, confess it, repent of it before God. In confessing and repenting of the evil in our own nature (as we are made aware of it) we become purposeful participants in the expression of the nature of God. I encourage you to allow God to show you the truth, hold you accountable, wash you clean bringing reconciliation, and give you grace. In doing so, you will fulfill Paul's following directive. "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1John 4:11 NIV)

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