

**MARCH 2014**

# **THE CHARACTER OF A GODLY MAN**

Daniel 1:8

Prepare a study on Daniel 1, particularly verse 8. Note that Daniel purposed/decided/determined/made-up his mind/did not want to eat/resolved not to eat the King's food. The first step toward being a godly man of character is that one has to decide/determine/resolve/make-up his mind/make it a purpose that he is going to be a godly man of character. The world wants men to conform to its standards; but if men want to dare to be different, then they must settle in their minds, once and for all, just who they are. Daniel 1:8 indicates that Daniel knew who he was and that allowed him to make his stand. A godly man changed a nation!

Here are some characteristics of a godly man:

1. *He keeps his heart pure.* Matthew 5:8 tells us, *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* Temptations have a way of getting in the way of our Christian walk and our relationship with God. A godly man will strive to have purity of heart. A godly man strives to avoid lust and other temptations and works hard to overcome them. A godly man is not a perfect man. Only Jesus can claim that! So, there are going to be times a godly man makes a mistake. Yet, he works to make sure those mistakes are minimized. The heart of the believer can only be kept pure by obedient living and close communion with God, through Christ.
2. *He spends time reading God's word.* Reading the Bible is how we know what God wants us to know and do. In reading the word of God, we get help in overcoming temptations. Reading the word of God will equip you for the task He has for you. Reading the word of God will give directions for your life.
3. *He is a man of prayer.* Prayer strengthens us, gives us direction, and draws us closer to the Father. Prayer develops our relationship with Him. Each man needs a time for daily prayer.
4. *He has integrity.* A godly man is one that strives to be honest, just, and ethical. A godly man has an understanding of godly behavior and strives to live to please God. A godly man is a man of good character and has a clean conscience.
5. *He devotes himself to God.* A godly man has an undistracted devotion to the Lord. There are always obligations and desires, etc. that clamor for our attention. Through prayer, Bible reading and study, the godly man stays focused on God.
6. *He gives without complaint.* A godly man gives from a heart overflowing with God's grace. He recognized that God's tithes and his offerings impact the Kingdom of God locally, nationally, and internationally. Through his faithful and dedicated giving, he provides for missions and missionaries.



Society tells men to always look out for #1, but who is actually #1? Is it God? It should be, and a godly man knows it. When we look for God, He gives us a heart for purity, for reading His word, a desire for prayer, He gives us a desire for integrity, for devoting ourselves to Him, and He gives us a heart for giving. When we seek to do God's work, God gives us a heart that soars when we do it and we find that it never feels like a burden. A godly man serves without complaining, because he seeks to glorify God. Men can start developing this selflessness by getting involved now. Do something about developing godly character because it's all for God's glory, people being blessed, and the expansion of the Kingdom of God.