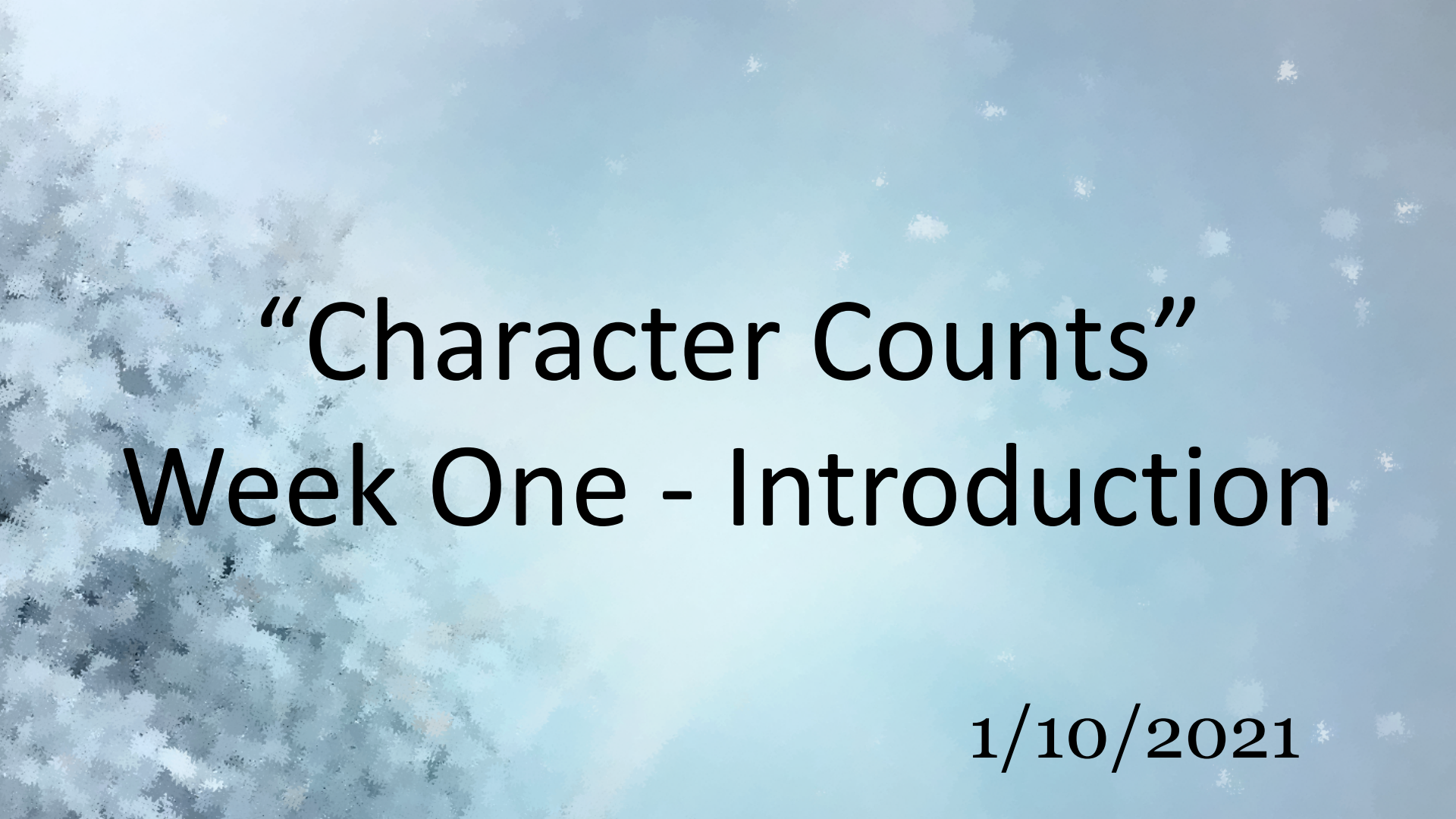


Scripture

II Peter 1:3-11



Look for our event!



“Character Counts”

Week One - Introduction

1/10/2021

John 17:11 -

I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

John 17:22-23 -

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Colossians 1:17 -

“In Christ all things hold together.”

I. Reason: Why a Series on Character?

- 1) Character Creates Unity which Witnesses through our Oneness**
- 2) Character Creates a Distinctive which Witnesses to the World**

II Corinthians 2:14-16 -

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.

Philippians 4:14-15 -

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

I. Reason: Why a Series on Character?

- 1) Character Creates Unity which Witnesses through our Oneness**
- 2) Character Creates a Distinctive which Witnesses to the World**
- 3) Character Creates the Condition for Flourishing**

I Timothy 6:11 -

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.
Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love,
steadfastness, gentleness.

“What must we do in the present if we are to reach the goal of a fully human existence, realize our potential, become the people we know in our bones we were meant to be? ...Here is the real challenge: not just to add one or two more commandments, to set the moral bar a little higher, but to become a different sort of person altogether...a transformation of character.”

~**N.T. Wright, After You Believe, pgs. 13-15**

II. Definition

Philippians 4:8 -

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

II. Definition

I Peter 2:9 -

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

II. Definition

II Peter 1:5-7 -

Make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

II. Definition

II Peter 1:3-5 -

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

III. How - God Works and We Work

Philippians 2:13 -

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

III. How - God Works and We Work

I Corinthians 15:10 -

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

III. How - God Works and We Work

Colossians 3:12-14 -

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

“The ‘putting on’ is a matter of consciously deciding, again and again, to do certain things in certain ways, to create patterns of memory and imagination deep within the psyche and, as we saw from contemporary neuroscience, deep within the actual physical structure of our mysterious brain. Gradually, bit by bit, the “putting on” of these qualities—qualities that seem for the moment so artificial, so unnatural, so ‘unlike me’—will in fact transform the character at its deepest level.”

~**N.T. Wright, After You Believe, pg. 145**

III. How - God Works and We Work

Colossians 3:10 -

You “have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

Everything you need for life and godliness you have already. In full. You actually don't need any more. Not one thing—not a cotter pin or flat washer, not a doohicky or a thingamajig: nothing's been withheld. Everything required for an abundant and flourishing life and a deep and real commitment to what matters most is intact. The life you've always wanted is already here. Right now. Not next year. Not after you get through this particularly difficult season...

Not after your kids reach a certain age. Not after your husband gets his act together, or you've gone to counseling, or acquired a college degree, or read the latest and greatest self-help book. Here and now you have everything you need. Only, there's some assembly required. Peter says, "For this very reason"—because you have all you need, down to the last snip of thread and patch of duct tape—"for this very reason, make every effort to add . . ."

What follows are seven virtues, each and all laid on the foundation of faith. Seven virtues that we're to make every effort to acquire. And if we do? We will participate in God's very own nature. We will escape the corruption of the world. We will lead a fruitful and productive life. We will have more.

~Mark Buchanan

Hidden in Plain Sight, pp. 14-15

III. How - God Works and We Work

II Peter 1:8 -

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.