

# Your Character Is Your Future

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Your Future

Is God active in our lives? Does He hear our prayers? If He does, does He care? Yes, but we need a larger framework than our own lives to experience it.

- God is restoring His authority over the universe.
- God is renewing the creation.
- God is reconciling people to Himself.

And He graciously draws our lives up into His purpose.

How does He do that? He connects the things that give us meaning to His greater purpose. When we use our unique combination of desires, talents, abilities, scars and more to serve Him and others He draws us up into His greater purpose.

That is the larger framework we need to see God at work in our lives. At this point we need to add a layer:

Erwin McManus,  
“Your character is your future.”

This statement is very close to our concept of living life from the inside out. The difference is McManus’s statement addresses the way we act out our inner life within the world we live in. It addresses our morals or ethics.

Your character is your future. My character determines the choices I make. My character determines the selfishness or selflessness of my decisions. My character guides my decisions as it divides right from wrong for me. Your character is your future.

We must consider two things to shape our character and live ethically into our future:

1. The character demand of the Kingdom.
2. The moral temperature of our age.

Jesus teaching on Kingdom Character:

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

- The Negative: “Do no harm to others.”
- The Positive: We must stop the suffering of others because, if we were suffering, we would want that.

The positive is an orientation to life, not a momentary decision.

It is not reciprocity – “scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours.”

In Jesus’s day the Golden Rule was radical and dangerous. Today, though, some criticize it reflecting the culture of our day. What if what you want isn’t what I want? In that case, doing for me what you want done for yourself is not loving or kind.

Our cultural view on character: the “Morality of Self-fulfillment.” This view rejects higher purposes and accepts as its standard the idea that the most moral thing is to be the best version of myself, I can be in the service of others.

A Kingdom Response:

1. Do you live by the full Golden Rule?
2. Acknowledge the positives of the current morality.
3. Can you serve those who are losing out?
4. How does the higher purpose Jesus call us to connect with your current life?