

Godly **Character**
(our new nature in Christ)
is at its heart a life of

SHALOM
- legal,
psychological,
and social
peace

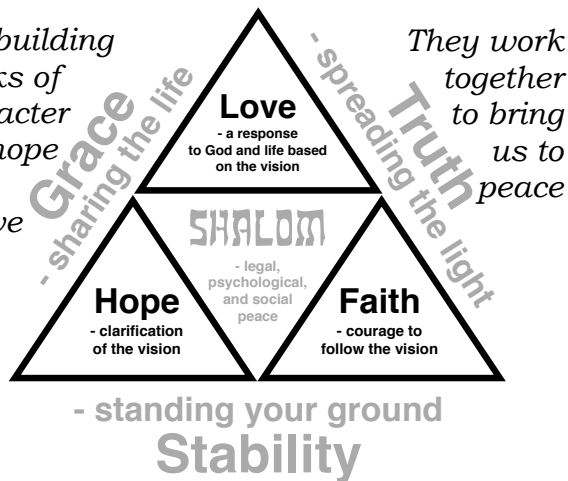
(This is the image of God in Christ.)

(John 1:14)
Christ is full
of **grace** &
truth

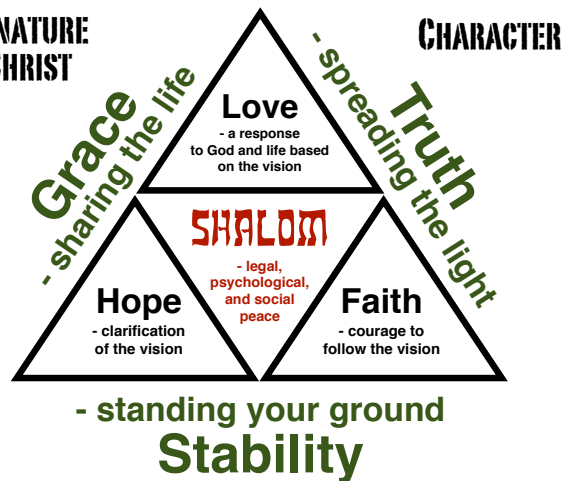
(Eph. 4:13-14)
The fullness
of Christ is
stability

Grace
SHALOM
- legal,
psychological,
and social
peace
Truth
Stability

The building
blocks of
character
are hope
faith
& love



OUR NATURE
IN CHRIST



Godly character is
PEACE (with God, self, others)

expressed in the life of Christ as
GRACE, TRUTH, & STABILITY
(compassion, trustworthiness,
consistency)

built into Christians by
HOPE, FAITH, & LOVE
(vision, courage, community).

Christian character
is built on and expressed through
the managing of vision

(what we
should be, can be,
are, & might be).

Christian character

is built on and expressed through
the managing of fear

**with living hope,
courageous faith,
& loving community.**

Leaders who do not
recognize this and
who do not help
others manage
their fears will
probably not
be followed.



Strategies for addressing fear

**Manage
the fear from
the outside**

Desensitizing
a person to
the triggers.

(controlled
exposer)

**Manage
the fear from
the inside**

Rehabilitating
a person's
hopes and faith.

(spiritual mind
renewal)

**Exorcise the
spirit of
fear**

Dramatic
intervention
through prayer.

(deliverance
ministry)

Building a fear killing faith.

What not to do.

Matthew 6

Mistake #1

Leading with our heart

**rather than
our choices.**



Matthew 6

“¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ **for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**”

If it can decay
or be taken away
it is a false treasure



If it can decay
or be taken away
it is a false treasure
that inevitably
invites



Vision

A heart
full of fear
will lead us to
make defensive
decisions.

Commitment
Investment
Passion

If we are lead
by hope & faith
our hearts will follow.



Mistake #2

Working hard and / or
trusting God

**but for the
wrong thing.**



Matthew 6

“²² The lamp of the body is the eye; **if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.** ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

The problem is not
our lack of faith.

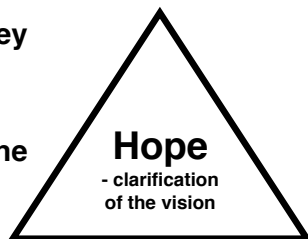
It is that our faith is
in something other than God
and / or
for something other than His
kingdom.

1. **Seeing** - is the key
to believing and
behaving.

2. **False hope** - is the
root of cynicism
and despair.

3. Five things we **must see**.

- **What we should be** - ideal calling.
- **What we can be** - realistic goals.
- **What we are** - hard, cold reality.
- **What we might be** - fears.



Mistake #3
Believing that we
can have it

both ways.



Matthew 6

“²⁴ **No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ²⁵ For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?”

**Serving two masters
will double your anxiety
not your security.**

Matthew 6

“²⁴ **No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ²⁵ For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?”

Mistake #4
Neglecting or
fretting over
**material
needs.**



Matthew 6

“³¹ Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’ ³² For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for **your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**”

Matthew 4:4

“Man shall not live by bread alone but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

Godly character does not
neglect nor is it anxious about
material needs.

2 Thessalonians 3:10

“For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order; if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.”

Godly character does not
neglect nor is it anxious about
material needs.

Mistake #5
Failing to keep
the main thing
**the main
thing.**



Matthew 6:33

“But **seek first His kingdom and His righteousness**; and all these things shall be added to you. “Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.””

**When the good
keeps us from the best
it is no longer good.**

Luke 10

“⁴¹ But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; ⁴² but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.””

Take home

- ✓ Take your baptism seriously and invest your life in things that can't be taken away.
- ✓ When anxious, ask if you are trying to have it both ways.
- ✓ Work hard, trust God and fear not.



Worrying

**does not take away
tomorrow's troubles;
it just takes away
today's peace.**

**Fear grows with false
expectations
therefore clear vision and
hope are vital.**

**“the lamp of the body
is the eye”**

Matthew 6:22

**Fear calls for courage,
therefore faith is essential
to managing fear.**

**“in God I trust; I will
not be afraid.”**

Psalms 56:11

**Fear is about isolation
therefore love (inclusion)
is needed.**

“love casts out fear”

1 John 4:18