BEST QUOTES ON CHARACTER

Character matters. Researchers concerned with academic-achievement gaps have begun to study, with increasing interest and enthusiasm, a set of personal qualities—often referred to as noncognitive skills, or character strengths—that include resilience, conscientiousness, optimism, self-control, and grit. These capacities generally aren't captured by our ubiquitous standardized tests, but they seem to make a big difference in the academic success of children, especially low-income children.

—Paul Tough

In Japanese schools, the students don't take any exams until they reach grade four (the age of 10). They just take small tests. It is believed that the goal for the first 3 years of school is not to judge the child's knowledge or learning, but to establish good manners and to develop their character. Children are taught to respect other people and to be gentle to animals and nature. They also learn how to be generous, compassionate, and empathetic. Besides this, the kids are taught qualities like grit, self-control, and justice.

—novakdjokovicfoundation.org

You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.

—Malcolm S. Forbes

The 12 Principles of Character: (1) honesty, (2) understanding, (3) compassion and empathy, (4) appreciation, (5) patience, (6) discipline, (7) fortitude, (8) perseverance, (9) humor, (10) humility, (11) generosity, (12) respect.

--Kathryn B. Johnson

Get to know two things about a man—how he earns his money and how he spends it —and you have the clue to his character, for you have a searchlight that shows up the inmost recesses of his soul. You know all you need to know about his standards, his motives, his driving desires, his real religion.

--Robert James McCracken

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he never would be found out.

--Thomas Babington Macaulay

Character is not cut in marble; it is not something solid and unalterable. It is something living and changing, and may become diseased as our bodies do.

--George Eliot

The character is like white paper; if once blotted, it can hardly ever be made to appear white as before.

--Joel Hawes

The fate of the country...does not depend on what kind of paper you drop into the ballot box once a year, but on what kind of man you drop from your chamber into the street every morning.

--Henry David Thoreau

Character is what you have left when you've lost everything else.

--Patricia Harris

There is no such thing as a 'self-made' man. We are made up of thousands of others. Everyone who has ever done a kind deed for us, or spoken one word of encouragement to us, has entered into the make-up of our character and of our thoughts, as well as our success.

--George Matthew Adams

Your choice of friends reflects your character.

--Dan L. Miller

There are two beings who assess character instantly by looking into the eyes,—dogs and children. If a dog not naturally possessed of the devil will not come to you after he has looked you in the face, you ought to go home and examine your conscience; and if a little child, from any other reason than mere timidity, looks you in the face, and then draws back and will not come to your knee, go home and look deeper yet into your conscience.

—Woodrow Wilson

The main thing is to care. Care very hard, even if it is only a game you are playing.

—Billie Jean King

No man knows his true character until he has run out of gas, purchased something on the installment plan, and raised an adolescent.

--Marcelene Cox

Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

—Frank Outlaw

Instead of saying that man is the creature of circumstance, it would be nearer the mark to say that man is the architect of circumstance. It is character which builds an existence out of circumstance. From the same materials one man builds palaces, another hovels; one warehouses, another villas; bricks and mortar are mortar and bricks until the architect can make them something else.

--Thomas Carlyle

A man may be outwardly successful all his life long, and die hollow and worthless as a puff-ball; and he may be externally defeated all his life long, and die in the royalty of a kingdom established within him. A man's true estate of power and riches, is to be in himself; not in his dwelling, or position, or external relations, but in his own essential character. That is the realm in which he is to live.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Character is the result of two things: Mental attitude and the way we spend our time.

--Elbert Hubbard

Character is a diamond that scratches every other stone.

--Cyrus A. Bartol

You can't see the flaw in a bridge until it falls down, or the flaw in a man's character until he meets with temptation.

--Unknown

Ability will enable a man to get to the top, but it takes character to keep him there.

--John Wooden

The people who really know your character are waiters and clerks.

—Katherine Pipin

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.

--Helen Keller

Character building begins in our infancy, and continues until death.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

Every man has in himself a continent of undiscovered character.
Happy he who acts the Columbus to his own soul!

--Sir James Fitzjames Stephen

It is not true that suffering ennobles the character; happiness does that sometimes, but suffering, for the most part, makes men petty and vindictive.

--William Somerset Maugham

Character is like a rifle; it cannot shoot higher than it is aimed.

--Unknown

Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings. Only one thing endures, and that is character.

--Horace Greeley

Every man has three characters—that which he exhibits, that which he has, and that which he thinks he has.

--Alphonse Karr

A man's reputation is the opinion people have of him; his character is what he really is.

--Jack Miner

The discipline of desire is the background of character.

--John Locke

Conscience is the inner voice that warns us that someone may be looking.

--H. L. Mencken

What does not destroy me, makes me strong.

--Friedrich Nietzsche

Character is perfectly educated will.

--Novalis

Moderation is an ostentatious proof of our strength of character.

--La Rochefoucauld

If I keep my good character, I shall be rich enough.

--Platonicus

Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars.

--Kahlil Gibran

Character is largely caught, and the father and the home should be the great sources of character infection.

--Frank H. Cheley

A man's character never changes radically from youth to old age. What happens is that circumstances bring out characteristics which had not been obvious to the superficial observer.

--Hesketh Pearson

If you hear that a mountain has moved, believe; but if you hear that a man has changed his character, believe it not.

—Arab Proverb

Only this much is certain—all men and all nations have a character, and that character, when once taken, is, I do not say unchangeable...but the least changeable thing in this ever-varying and changeful world.

--Walter Bagehot

Some people strengthen the society just by being the kind of people they are.

--John W. Gardner

To bear up under loss, to fight the bitterness of defeat and the weakness of grief, to be victor over anger, to smile when tears are close, to resist evil men and base instincts, to hate hate and to love love, to go on when it would seem good to die, to seek ever after the glory and the drama, to look up with unquenchable faith in something evermore about to be, that is what any man can do, and so be great.

--Zane Grey

If you act, you show character; if you sit still, you show it; if you sleep you show it.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

People seem not to see that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

A lost wife can be replaced, but the loss of character spells ruin.

--Malay Proverb

Character is much easier kept than recovered.

--Thomas Paine

Every cask smells of the wine it contains.

--Spanish Proverb

He who has no character is not a man but only a thing.

--S. R. N. Chamfort

This is the mark of a perfect character—to pass through each day as though it were the last, without agitation, without torpor, and without pretense.

--Marcus Aurelius

Each man's character shapes his fortunes.

--Latin Proverb

Great things are accomplished not by strength, speed or physical dexterity, but by reflection, force of character and judgment.

--Cicero

Wealth stays with us a little moment if at all; only our characters are steadfast, not our gold.

--Euripides

If we are strong, our character will speak for itself. If we are weak, words will be of no help.

--John F. Kennedy

Failure makes people bitter and cruel. Success improves the character of the man.

--W. Somerset Maugham

It is not true that suffering ennobles the character; happiness does that sometimes, but suffering, for the most part, makes men petty and vindictive.

--W. Somerset Maugham

One can acquire everything in solitude except character.

--Stendhal

Life is what our character makes it. We fashion it, as a snail does its shell. A man can say: 'I never made a fortune because it is not in my character to be rich.'

--Jules Renard

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

--Sallust

Every man is the son of his own works.

--Cervantes

Judge of your natural character by what you do in your dreams.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The value of culture is its effect on character. It avails nothing unless it ennobles and strengthens that. Its use is for life. Its aim is not beauty but goodness.

--W. Somerset Maugham

It matters not what you are thought to be, but what you are.

--Publilius Syrus

The proper time to influence the character of a child is about a hundred years before he is born.

--Dean William R. Inge

Our characters are the result of our conduct.

—Aristotle

Character is that which can do without success.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Happiness is not the end of life: character is.

--Henry Ward Beecher

No change of circumstances can repair a defect of character.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

A true test of a man's character is not what he does in the light, but what he does in the dark.

--Unknown

The kind of ancestors we have is not as important as the kind of descendants our ancestors have.

--Unknown

Character is made by many acts; it may be lost by a single act.

--Unknown

It is not by a man's purse, but by his character, that he is rich or poor.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Brains and beauty are nature's gifts; character is your own achievement.

--Unknown

The measure of a man's character is not what he gets from his ancestors, but what he leaves his descendants.

--Unknown

There are two very difficult things in this world. One is to make a good name for one's self, and the other is to keep it.

--Unknown

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

--Abraham Lincoln

Youth and beauty fade; character endures forever.

--Unknown

A man's character is his fate.

--Heraclitus

One of the surest marks of good character is a man's ability to accept personal criticism without feeling malice toward the one who gives it.

--Unknown

Character cannot be purchased, bargained for, inherited, rented, or imported from afar. It must be home-grown.

--Unknown

Men of genius are admired; men of wealth are envied; men of power are feared; but only men of character are trusted.

—Zig Ziglar

The two great tests of character are wealth and poverty.

--Charles A. Beard

We think our civilization near its meridian, but we are yet only at the cock-crowing and the morning star. In our barbarous society the influence of character is in its infancy.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character.

--John, Viscount Morley
of Blackburn

Character is simply habit long continued.

--Plutarch

A person's character is but half-formed till after wedlock.

--Charles Simmons

It is an observation no less just than common, that there is no stronger test of a man's real character than power and authority, exciting as they do every passion, and discovering every latent vice.

--Plutarch

Nothing, indeed, but the possession of some power can with any certainty discover what at the bottom is the true character of any man.

--Edmund Burke

The noblest contribution which any man can make for the benefit of posterity, is that of a good character. The richest bequest which any man can leave to the youth of his native land, is that of a shining, spotless example.

--Robert Charles Winthrop

Talents are best nurtured in solitude; character is best formed in the stormy billows of the world.

--Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

A man's character is the reality of himself. His reputation is the opinion others have formed of him. Character is in him; reputation is from other people—that is the substance, this is the shadow.

--Henry Ward Beecher

The great hope of society is in individual character.

--William Ellery Channing

We want the spirit of America to be efficient; we want American character to be efficient; we want American character to display itself in what I may, perhaps, be allowed to call spiritual efficiency—clear disinterested thinking and fearless action along the right lines of thought.

--Woodrow Wilson

Make but few explanations. The character that cannot defend itself is not worth vindicating.

--Frederick W. Robertson

You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge one for yourself.

--James Anthony Froude

Character is the real foundation of all worthwhile success.

--John Hays Hammond

Nature magically suits a man to his fortunes, by making them the fruit of his character.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

A sound body is a first-class thing; a sound mind is an even better thing; but the thing that counts for most in the individual as in the nation is character, the sum of those qualities which make a man a good man and a woman a good woman.

--Theodore Roosevelt

Crises refine life. In them you discover what you are.

--Allan K. Chalmers

Let us not say, Every man is the architect of his own fortune; but let us say, Every man is the architect of his own character.

--George Dana Boardman

Characters do not change. Opinions alter, but characters are only developed.

--Benjamin Disraeli

The four cornerstones of character on which the structure of this nation was built are: Initiative, Imagination, Individuality and Independence.

--Edward Rickenbacker

Of all the properties which belong to honorable men, not one is so highly prized as that of character.

--Henry Clay

Character is not made in a crisis—it is only exhibited.

--Robert Freeman

A man never discloses his own character so clearly as when he describes another's.

-- Jean Paul Richter

Character is what a man is in the dark.

—Dwight L. Moody

If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of itself.

—Dwight L. Moody

Character is a victory, not a gift.

--Anonymous

The real character of a man is found out by his amusements.

--Joshua Reynolds

The glory of the nation rests in the character of her men. And character comes from boyhood. Thus every boy is a challenge to his elders.

--Herbert Hoover

The collapse of character begins with compromise.

--Frederick Douglass

Of all the qualities necessary for success, none comes before character.

--Ernesta Procope

Talent is overrated. You win with character.

--Lewis Schaffel

Intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.

--Martin Luther King

The faithful study of the liberal arts humanizes character.

--Ovid

Education has for its object the formation of character. To curb restive propensities, to awaken dormant sentiments, to strengthen the perceptions, and cultivate the tastes, to encourage this feeling and repress that, so as finally to develop the child into a man of well proportioned and harmonious nature—this is alike the aim of parent and teacher.

--Herbert Spencer

There is only one curriculum, no matter what the method of education: what is basic and universal in human experience and practice, the underlying structure of character.

--Paul Goodman

The vilest abortionist is he who attempts to mould a child's character.

--George Bernard Shaw

I admire men of character. And I judge character not by how men deal with their superiors, but mostly how they deal with their subordinates. And that, to me, is where you find out what the character of a man is.

--H. Norman Schwarzkopf

Sports do not build character. They reveal it.

--Heywood Broun

Men show their character in nothing more clearly than by what they think laughable.

--Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Your character is your destiny.

--Lao Tzu

Good character consists of knowing the good, desiring the good, and doing the good —habits of the mind, habits of the heart, and habits of action. All three are necessary for leading a moral life: all three make up moral maturity.

--Thomas Lickona

Character is a line on a stone.
No one can erase it.

--African Proverb

There is no index of character so sure as the voice.

--Benjamin Disraeli

One goes through school...learning little or nothing about goodness but a good deal about success.

--Ashley Montagu

To have the approval of your conscience when you are alone with your thoughts is like being in the company of true and loving friends. To merit your own self-respect gives strength of character.

--David O. McKay

Flabbiness of character, more than flabbiness of muscle, lies at the root of most of the problems facing American youth.

--David O. McKay

Character contributes to beauty. It fortifies a woman as her youth fades. A mode of conduct, a standard of courage, discipline, fortitude, and integrity can do a great deal to make a woman beautiful.

--Jacqueline Bisset

Though our character is formed by circumstances, our own desires can do much to shape those circumstances; and what is really inspiriting and ennobling in the doctrine of free will is the conviction that we have real power over the formation of our own character.

--John Stuart Mill

To enjoy the things we ought and hate the things we ought has the greatest bearing on excellence of character.

--Aristotle

The test of character is the amount of strain it can bear.

--Charles Houston

The soul is dyed the color of its thoughts. Think only on those things that are in line with your principles and can bear the full light of day. The content of your character is your choice. Day by day, what you choose, what you think, and what you do is who you become. Your integrity is your destiny...it is the light that guides your way.

--Heraclitus

A man's treatment of money is the most decisive test of his character—how he makes it and how he spends it.

--James Moffatt

It's what each of us sows, and how, that gives to us character and prestige. Seeds of kindness, goodwill, and human understanding, planted in fertile soil, spring up into deathless friendships, big deeds of worth, and a memory that will not soon fade out. We are all sowers of seeds—and let us never forget it!

--George Matthew Adams

Thoughts, even more than overt acts, reveal character.

--William S. Plumer

Example teaches better than precept. It is the best modeler of the character of men and women. To set a lofty example is the richest bequest a man can leave behind him.

--Samuel Smiles

I believe in the sacredness of a promise, that a man's word should be as good as his bond; that character—not wealth or power or position—is of supreme worth.

--John D. Rockefeller

Character is that which reveals moral purpose, exposing the class of things a man chooses or avoids.

--Aristotle

There is something in every person's character that cannot be broken—the bony structure of his character. Wanting to change it is the same as teaching a sheep to retrieve.

--George C. Lichtenberg

Nothing reveals a man's character so much as the joke he takes offense at.

--Georg C. Lichtenberg

A reputation once broken may possibly be repaired, but the world will always keep their eyes on the spot where the crack was.

—Joseph Hall

Attitudes are contagious—is yours worth catching?

--Joan Lunden

The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes.

--William James

Nothing makes it easier to resist temptation than a proper bringing up, a sound set of values, and witnesses.

--Franklin P. Jones

How others treat me is their path; how I react is mine.

--Dr. Wayne Dyer

Reputation is character minus what you've been caught doing.

--Michael Lapoce

What you are is God's gift to you, and what you do with what you are is your gift to God.

--Hans Urs von Balthasar

Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts.

--Aristotle

Dollars have never been known to produce character, and character will never be produced by money.

--Will Keith Kellogg

The foundations of character are built not by lecture, but by bricks of good example, laid day by day.

--Leo Blessing

Good character is more to be praised than outstanding talent. Most talents are, to some extent a gift. Good character, by contrast, is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece—by thought, choice, courage and determination.

--John Luther

Ethical living is the indispensable condition of all that is most worthwhile in the world.

--Ernest Caldecott

To arrive at a just estimate of a renowned man's character one must judge it by the standards of his time, not ours.

--Mark Twain

Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder.

--George Washington

The qualities of a great man are vision, integrity, courage, understanding, the power of articulation, and profundity of character.

--Dwight Eisenhower

Character is the only secure foundation of the state.

--Calvin Coolidge

Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

--Abraham Lincoln

I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside me.

--Abraham Lincoln

The (ancient) Greeks believed that character was formed in part by fate and in part by parental training, and that character was exemplified not only by acts of bravery in battle but in the habits of daily conduct.

--James Cannon

The true test of civilization is not the census, nor the size of cities, nor the crops—no, but the kind of man the country turns out.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Faced with crisis, the man of character falls back upon himself.

--Charles de Gaulle

Character is power.

--Booker T. Washington

Character is a stamp of good repute on a person.

--Euripides

Between ourselves and our real natures we interpose that wax figure of idealizations and selections which we call our character.

--Walter Lippmann

Character is an essential tendency. It can be covered up, it can be messed with, it can be screwed around with, but it can't be ultimately changed. It's the structure of our bones, the blood that runs through our veins.

--Sam Shepard

Every person in America has done or said something that would keep him or her from being president. Maybe a nation that consumes as much booze and dope as we do and has our kind of divorce statistics should pipe down about 'character issues.'

--P. J. O'Rourke

It is our character that supports the promise of our future—far more than particular government programs or policies.

--William J. Bennett

Education commences at the mother's knee, and every word spoken within the hearing of children tends toward the formation of character.

—Hosea Ballou

You can't teach good character if you don't live it.

--Tom Lickona

What I live by, I impart.

--Augustine

Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. There are too many people who think that the only thing that's right is to get by, and the only thing that's wrong is to get caught.

--J. C. Watts

Only a man's character is the real criterion of worth.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

If you will think about what you ought to do for other people, your character will take care of itself.

--Woodrow Wilson

Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.

--Margaret Chase Smith

The greatest gift we can bestow on others is a good example.

--Thomas Morell

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us.

--Henry S. Haskins

When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends.

--Japanese Proverb

We judge ourselves by what we are capable of doing; others judge us by what we have done.

—Jack Dempsey

The best index to a person's character is
(a) how he treats people who can't do him any good, and
(b) how he treats people who can't fight back.

--Abigail van Buren

Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character.

--Albert Einstein

Morality, like art, means drawing a line someplace.

--Oscar Wilde

Character is forged in the smallest of struggles. Then, when the big challenges come, we're ready.

--Waiter Rant

Never let your sense of morals get in the way of doing what's right.

--Isaac Asimov

There is no character, howsoever good and fine, but it can be destroyed by ridicule, howsoever poor and witless.

--Mark Twain

Ethics is not a luxury. It's as essential to our survival as clean water and sunlight.

--Rushworth M. Kidder

Dreams are the cornerstones of our character.

--Henry David Thoreau

People with courage and character always seem sinister to the rest.

--Hermann Hesse

Everyone has the obligation to ponder well his own specific traits of character. He must also regulate them adequately and not wonder whether someone else's traits might suit him better. The more definitely his own a man's character is, the better it fits him.

--Cicero

A rich man has no need of character.

--Hebrew Proverb

Weakness of character is the only defect which cannot be amended.

--Francois de La Rochefoucauld

The character of a man is known from his conversations.

—Menander

If all else fails, the character of a man can be recognized by nothing so surely as by a jest which he takes badly.

—Georg C. Lichtenberg

A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials.

—Chinese Proverb

Poverty is the schoolmaster of character.

—Antiphanes

Many a man's reputation would not know his character if they met on the street.

—Elbert Hubbard

Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.

—Sam Ewing

A good heart is better than all the heads in the world.

—Edward Bulwer-Lytton

What people say behind your back is your standing in the community.

—Edward W. Howe

The moment you give up your principles, and your values, you are dead, your culture is dead, your civilization is dead. Period.

—Oriana Fallaci

You can tell the character of every man when you see how he receives praise.

—Seneca

Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open.

—Elmer G. Letterman

I care not what others think of what I do, but I care very much about what I think of what I do! That is character!

—Theodore Roosevelt

An individual step in character training is to put responsibility on the individual.

—Robert Baden-Powell

I must uphold my ideals, for perhaps the time will come when I shall be able to carry them out.

—Anne Frank

Character builds slowly, but it can be torn down within incredible swiftness.

—Faith Baldwin

If you do not know the laws of right conduct, you cannot form your character.

—Swami Sivananda

A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.

—Charles Spurgeon

People with self-respect exhibit a certain toughness, a kind of moral nerve: they display what was once called character, a quality which, although approved in the abstract, sometimes loses ground to other, more instantly negotiable virtues. The measure of its slipping prestige is that one tends to think of it only in connection with homely children and United States senators who have been defeated, preferably in the primary, for reelection. Nonetheless, character—the willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life—is the source from which self-respect springs.

—Joan Didion

Politics ruins the character.

—Otto von Bismarck

If a man's character is to be abused there's nobody like a relative to do the business.

—Alexander Pope

When wealth is lost, nothing is lost.
When health is lost, something is lost.
When character is lost, all is lost.

—German Proverb

Character isn't inherited. One builds it daily by the way one thinks and acts, thought by thought, action by action. If one lets fear or hate or anger take possession of the mind, they become self-forged chains.

—Helen Gahagan Douglas

A man's character may be learned from the adjectives which he habitually uses in conversation.

—Mark Twain

If you don't have enemies, you don't have character.

—Paul Newman

Tomorrow's education will include placing greater emphasis on character development.

--Ralph Tyler

Education has for its object the formation of character.

--Herbert Spencer

Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands.

—Anne Frank

First class in life has nothing to do with the clothes you wear, the car you drive or the house you live in. First class is and always will be about the content of your character, the quality of your ideas and the kindness in your heart.

—Cory Booker

Character develops itself in the stream of life.

—Johann Wolfgang
von Goethe

Be as careful of the books you read, as of the company you keep; for your habits and character will be as much influenced be the former as by the latter.

—Paxton Hood

Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realize this. For the world was built to develop character, and we must learn that the setbacks and grieves which we endure help us in our marching onward.

—Henry Ford

Character counts in political campaigns. Should it also matter in business? I'm afraid it's both naive and old-fashioned to even ask that question.

--Dan Lyons

Any man worth his salt will stick up for what he believes right, but it takes a slightly better man to acknowledge instantly and without reservation that he is in error.

—Andrew Jackson

The people have a right, an indisputable, unalienable, indefeasible, divine right to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge—I mean of the character and conduct of their rulers.

--John Adams

In a president, character is everything. A president doesn't have to be brilliant... He doesn't have to be clever; you can hire clever... You can hire pragmatic, and you can buy and bring in policy wonks. But you can't buy courage and decency, you can't rent a strong moral sense. A president must bring those things with him... He needs to have, in that much maligned word, but a good one nonetheless, a 'vision' of the future he wishes to create.. But a vision is worth little if a president doesn't have the character-- the courage and heart-- to see it through.

--Peggy Noonan

Our people are slow to learn the wisdom of sending character instead of talent to Congress. Again and again they have sent a man of great acuteness, a fine scholar, a fine forensic orator, and some master of the brawls has crunched him up in his hands like a bit of paper.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

It takes real character to do what's right when no one else is doing it.

—*eminentlyquotable.com*

In our brief national history we have shot four of our presidents, worried five of them to death, impeached one and hounded another out of office. And when all else fails, we hold an election and assassinate their character.

--P. J. O'Rourke

The forming of the minds of children in that early stage of their existence which, in nine cases out of every ten, determines their quality, character, and usefulness, through the whole period of life, is the most sacred duty which devolves upon the sex, and if they neglect this, or perform it in an improper manner, the character of the whole of society is lowered to the same extent.

--*The Magazine of Domestic Economy* (1835)

How a man plays the game shows something of his character; how he loses shows all of it.

—*Tribune* (Camden County, Georgia)

The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money.

—Benjamin Jowett

Money and success don't change people; they merely amplify what is already there.

--Will Smith

The type of character produced by wealth lies on the surface for all to see. Wealthy men are insolent and arrogant; their possession of wealth affects their understanding; they feel as if they had every good thing that exists; wealth becomes a standard of value for everything else, and therefore they imagine there is nothing they cannot buy. They are luxurious and ostentatious;…ostentatious and vulgar.
In a word, the type of character produced by wealth is that of a prosperous fool.

—Aristotle

It is possible that the scrupulously honest man may not grow rich so fast as the unscrupulous and dishonest one; but success will be of a truer kind, earned without fraud or injustice. And even though a man should for a time be unsuccessful, still he must be honest; better to lose all and save character. For character is itself a fortune.

—Samuel Smiles

Character forms a life regardless of how obscurely that life is lived and how little light falls on it from the stars.

—James Hillman

The parent who did not depend on love to influence and mold the character of the child rather than force would be regarded not as a real parent but a brute. Force is worse than useless in developing the conduct of the child.

--Clarence Darrow

It isn't what you have, but what you are, that makes life worthwhile.

—Unknown

What a man does, tells us what he is.

--R. D. Huntington

No change of circumstances can repair a defect of character.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Your judgments about another person say more about your own character than the character of the person you are pointing a finger at.

This is the key and one of the most fundamental insights about the 'red flags' that we often dismiss regarding the people in our lives. If someone complains a lot to you about other people, guess what? That is part of their current character. And, as quickly as the tide changes, you can just as easily become the person they target and criticize, point fingers at, and negatively judge. Forever and always, until vibrations are raised, this will be the cycle of the relationship. So, it's your choice to continue to engage in the cycle with them, or to move on.

There are plenty of people who do not criticize, point fingers, or judge. THIS is the kind of character we want to foster within ourselves. THIS is the character of the kind of people we DO want to develop close relationships with.

—Alaric Hutchinson

I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.

--George Washington

Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without the strategy.

--H. Norman Schwarzkopf

The beliefs that mold great organizations frequently grow out of the character, the experience and the convictions of a single person.

--Thomas Watson, Jr.

The mistake we make in thinking of character as something unified and all-encompassing is very similar to a kind of blind spot in the way we process information. Psychologists call this tendency the Fundamental Attribution Error (FAE), which is a fancy way of saying that when it comes to interpreting other people's behavior, human beings invariably make the mistake of overestimating the importance of fundamental character traits and underestimating the importance of situation and context.

—Malcolm Gladwell

A man's true character comes out when he's drunk.

—Charlie Chaplin

What comes out of you when you are squeezed is what is inside of you.

—Wayne Dyer

We are armed with language adequate to describe each leaf of the field, but not to describe human character.

—Henry David Thoreau

A nation is great not through dams in its rivers or its ships on the sea or the deposits in its banks. It is great by the moral fiber and character of its citizens. Nations die when these weaken.

--Herbert Hoover

There shall be no differences, save by merit of character, by merit of ability, by merit of service to country. Those are the true tests of value of any man or woman.

--Annie Wood Besant

Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption.

—James Garfield

Opposition is a natural part of life. Just as we develop our physical muscles through overcoming opposition—such as lifting weights—we develop our character muscles by overcoming challenges and adversity.

—Stephen R. Covey

There is one thing certain about a well-dressed woman: she has taken trouble. And to take trouble is to strengthen character.

--Robert Lynd

Character is a by-product; it is produced in the great manufacture of daily duty.

--Woodrow Wilson

The easiest way to determine a person's innermost character is to put that person behind the wheel of a high-powered car on a U.S. highway.

—Unknown

The good man is the man who, no matter how morally unworthy he has been, is moving to become better.

—John Dewey

The consuming desire of most human beings is deliberately to plant their whole life in the hands of some other person. I would describe this method of searching for happiness as immature. Development of character consists solely in moving toward self-sufficiency.

--Quentin Crisp

For peace is not mere absence of war, but is a virtue that springs from force of character.

--Benedictus de Spinoza

The true worth of a race must be measured by the character of its womanhood.

--Mary McLeod Bethune
(1875-1955)

Life is a grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends on what you are made of.

—Jacob M. Braude

Errors are inevitable. The mark of character is not refusing to recognize them, but acknowledging them and taking responsibility.

—Andrew Sullivan

Beauty does not provide our intellect or our will with any single result; it does not fulfill a single intellectual or moral purpose; it does not uncover a single truth; it does not help us to carry out any duty; thus, in a word, it is equally unfit to form character or to enlighten the mind.

--J. C. F. von Schiller

Never before has a generation of parents faced such awesome competition with the mass media for their children's attention. While parents tout the virtues of premarital virginity, drug-free living, nonviolent resolution of social conflict, or character over physical appearance, their values are daily challenged by television soaps, rock music lyrics, tabloid headlines, and movie scenes extolling the importance of physical appearance and conformity.

--Marianne E. Neifert

I think if I weren't so beautiful, maybe I'd have more character.

—Jerry Hall

Character is destiny.

—Heraclitus

Old age and sickness bring out the essential characteristics of a man.

--Felix Frankfurter

He who knows no hardships will know no hardihood. He who faces no calamity will need no courage. Mysterious though it is, the characteristics in human nature which we love best grow in a soil with a strong mixture of troubles.

—Harry Emerson Fosdick

Presidential elections are defining moments that go way beyond legislative programs or the role of the government. They are measuring points for the country that call forth the range of questions which every candidate must try to address. Who are we? What matters? Where are we going? In the private and public actions of the candidates are embedded their best answers. Action is character, I believe, and when all is said and sifted, character is what matters most.

—Bob Woodward

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

—John Wooden

All greatness of character is dependent on individuality. The man who has no other existence than that which he partakes in common with all around him, will never have any other than an existence of mediocrity.

—James F. Cooper

To bear failure with courage is the best proof of character that anyone can give.

—W. Somerset Maugham

Sow a thought, and you reap an act;
Sow an act, and you reap a habit;
Sow a habit, and you reap a character;
Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.

—Samuel Smiles

The circumstances amid which you live determine your reputation; the truth you believe determines your character.
Reputation is what you are supposed to be; character is what you are.
Reputation is the photograph; character is the face.
Reputation comes over one from without; character grows up from within.
Reputation is what you have when you come to a new community; character is what you have when you go away.
Your reputation is learned in an hour; your character does not come to light for a year.
Reputation is made in a moment; character is built in a lifetime.
Reputation grows like a mushroom; character grows like the oak.
A single newspaper report gives you your reputation; a life of toil gives you your character.
Reputation makes you rich or makes you poor; character makes you happy or makes you miserable.
Reputation is what men say about you on your tombstone;
character is what angels say about you before the throne of God.

--William Hersey Davis

Boredom is a sign of satisfied ignorance, blunted apprehension, crass sympathies, dull understanding, feeble powers of attention, and irreclaimable weakness of character.

—James Bridie

Talent develops in quiet places, character in the full current of human life.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The safest course is to do nothing against one's conscience. With this secret, we can enjoy life and have no fear from death.

—Voltaire

To speak frankly, I am not in favour of long engagements. They give people the opportunity of finding out each other's character before marriage, which I think is never advisable.

—Oscar Wilde

Your good character and attitude should be your message to the world.

—Bamigboye Olurotimi

Good character is all about improving your personal moral values to advance to a more desirable state.

—Joan Jessalyn Cox

Allow yourself to think only those thoughts that match your principles and can bear the bright light of day. Day by day, your choices, your thoughts, your actions fashion the person you become. Your integrity determines your destiny.

—Heraclitus

Your behavior inside your home is the real indicator of your character. Not in the workplace, not in school. Sure, it's nice to look good when you leave your home, and make a bella figure. But in terms of your identity, the most important thing is who you are with your parents, with your children, with your cousins. The most important thing is how you behave with the people who really matter.

—Katherine Wilson

Judge character by behavior.

—Lizelle Du Plessis

Our ability to have patience, and our attitude toward others, define who we are at any given time.

—Ellen J. Barrier

There is nothing so fatal to character as half finished tasks.

—David Lloyd George

My dad gave 50 bucks to a guy who said he needed to buy medicine for his kids. I told my dad he was probably going to spend the money on alcohol or something, buy my dad said that 'whether he was lying or not says something about HIS character, but hearing someone in need and choosing not to help when I have the means to says something about mine.

—Internet Meme

Résumé virtues are professional and oriented toward earthly success. They require comparison with others. Eulogy virtues are ethical and spiritual, and require no comparison. Your eulogy virtues are what you would want people to ask about at your funeral. As in He was kind and deeply spiritual, not He made senior vice president at an astonishingly young age an had a lot of frequent-flier miles.

—Arthur C. Brooks

Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character; and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

People are not beautiful for the way they look, walk or talk. They are beautiful for the way they Love, Care & Share.

—*Humanity@love4humans*

Maturity begins to grow when you can sense your concern for others outweighing your concern for yourself.

—John MacNaughton

Character is built by striving to be kind—not famous.

—Brendon Burchard

It is not your business to succeed, but to do right.

—C. S. Lewis

You can always evaluate a man's character by the way he speaks about his ex girlfriends and other women. When entering a new relationship or getting close with a new guy, make sure you take notice of the language he uses when referring to other girls.

—Miya Yamanouchi

You can't teach good character, if you don't have it.

—Tim Lockona

Character is the foundation stone upon which one must build to win respect. Just as no worthy building can be erected on a weak foundation, so no lasting reputation worthy of respect can be built on a weak character.

—R. C. Samsel

One way of getting along with people is the ability give in. Strength of character means the ability to give in to others from motives of love, kindness, and humility, and to do so gracefully, when no sin is involved. It also means the ability to stand on principle, and not to give in, when sin is involved.

—Lawrence G. Lovasik

Worry about your character and not your reputation, because your character is who you are, and your reputation is only what people think of you.

—John Wooden

If you would lift me up you must be on higher ground.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Unless education promotes character making, unless it helps men to be more moral, more just to their fellows, more law abiding, more discriminatingly patriotic and public spirited, it is not worth the trouble taken to furnish it.

—William Howard Taft

Fearlessness means taking the first step, even if you don't know where it will take you. It means being driven by a higher purpose, rather than by applause. It means knowing that you reveal your character when you stand apart, more than when you stand with the crowd.

—Chadwick Boseman

In teaching your child, do not forget that suffering is good too. It makes a person rich in character.

—Betty Smith

Never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

The lie of virginity—the idea that such a thing even exists—is ensuring that young women's perception of themselves is inextricable from their bodies, and that their ability to be moral actors is absolutely dependent on their sexuality. It's time to teach our daughters that their ability to be good people depends on their being good people , not on whether or not they're sexually active…so while young women are subject to overt sexual messages everyday, they're simultaneously being taught—by the people who are supposed to care for their personal and moral development, no less—that their only real worth is their virginity and ability to remain 'pure.'

—Jessica Valenti

Every mother should be a true artist, who knows how to weave into her child's life images of grace and beauty, the true poet capable of writing on the soul of childhood the harmony of love and truth, and teaching it how to produce the grandest of all poems—the poetry of a true and noble life.

—Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

We try so hard to instruct our children in all the right things—teaching good from bad, explaining choices and consequences—when in reality most lessons are learned through observation and experience. Perhaps we'd be better off training our youth to be highly observant.

—Richelle E. Goodrich

Plato defined good as threefold in character: good in the soul, expressed through the virtues; good in the body, expressed through the symmetry and endurance of the parts; and good in the external world, expressed through social position and companionship.

—Manly P. Hall

Life teaches us the right path is rarely the easy one.

—Roy T. Bennett

Stand up to hypocrisy. If you don't, the hypocrites will teach. Stand up to ignorance, because if you don't, the ignorant will run free to spread ignorance like a disease. Stand up for truth. If you don't, then there is no truth to your existence. If you don't stand up for all that is right, then understand that you are part of the reason why there is so much wrong in the world.

—Suzy Kassem

All kids misbehave. Research shows that normal young children misbehave every three minutes. Does it become an occasion for judgement of their character or an occasion for teaching?

—Carol S. Dweck

We must learn and then teach our children that niceness does not equal goodness. Niceness is a decision, a strategy of social interaction; it is not a character trait. People seeking to control others almost always present the image of a nice person in the beginning. Like rapport-building, charm and the deceptive smile, unsolicited niceness often has a discoverable motive.

—Gavin de Becker

Character is more important than intelligence for success.

—Gilberte Beaux

To know a man, observe how he wins his object, rather than how he loses it; for when we fail, our pride supports; when we succeed; it betrays us.

—Charles Caleb Colton

You only really get to know people when you've had a jolly good row with them. Then and then only can you judge their true characters!

—Anne Frank

True education does not consist merely in the acquiring of a few facts of science, history, literature, or art, but in the development of character.

—David O. McKay

At the end of your lives you will not be judged by academic successes, the degrees or diplomas earned, the positions held, the material wealth acquired, or power and prestige, but rather on the basis of what you have become as persons and what you are in conduct and character.

—Howard W. Hunter

A child whose life is full of the threat and fear of punishment is locked into babyhood. There is no way for him to grow up, to learn to take responsibility for his life and acts. Most important of all, we should not assume that having to yield to the threat of our superior force is good for the child's character. It is never good for anyone's character.

—John Holt

The home is the chief school of human virtues.

—William Ellery Channing

Character is the aim of true education; and science, history, and literature are but means used to accomplish the desired end. Character is not the result of chance work but of continuous right thinking and right acting.

—David O. McKay

What is true education? It is awakening a love for truth; giving a just sense of duty; opening the eyes of the soul to the great purpose and end of life. It is not so much giving words, as thoughts; or mere maxims, as living principles. It is not teaching to be honest, because 'honesty is the best policy'; but because it is right. It is teaching the individual to love the good, for the sake of the good; to be virtuous in action because one is so in heart.

—David O. McKay

It's not enough to fight for a better world; we also have to live lives worth fighting for.

—Eric Greitens

The end of education is character.

—Sathya Sai Baba

What makes you extraordinary is defined by your attitude towards others.

—Ashish Patel

Geography does not determine individual character, but it does matter.

—Robert D. Kaplan

We look for three things when we hire people. We look for intelligence, we look for initiative or energy, and we look for integrity. And if they don't have the latter, the first two will kill you, because if you're going to get someone without integrity, you want them lazy and dumb.

—Warren Buffett

Hiring managers skilled in behavioral interviewing should be asking five questions in a job interview:

1. Tell me about a specific time when you had to handle a tough problem that challenged fairness or ethical issues. What happened and how did you respond?

2. When was the last time you 'broke the rules'? What was the situation and what did you do?

3. When working with people, how would you describe your preferred relationship with them? (Use this question to assess honesty and the capacity for open communication, a clear hallmark of integrity.)

4. What value do you appreciate the most in a team environment? (Use this question to look for other trustworthy traits, like honesty, fairness, transparency, and inclusiveness—all hallmarks of integrity.)

5. If we ever got into a bind with a client, would you be willing to tell a little lie to help us out? (This is a 'trick question' to drill down to a person's core values. Anyone operating with integrity will raise a red flag and object to the question. You can explain your motive for asking it later, once you determine the individual has passed the lie test.)

—Warren Buffett

Instead of being presented with stereotypes by age, sex, color, class, or religion, children must have the opportunity to learn that within each range, some people are loathsome and some are delightful.

—Margaret Mead

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

—Maya Angelou

Education is teaching our children to desire the right things.

—Plato

The school has one main goal, a goal that guides the establishment and priority of all others, it should be to promote the growth of students as healthy, competent, moral people. This is a huge task to which all others are properly subordinated. We cannot ignore our children—their purposes, anxieties, and relationships—in the service of making them more competent in academic skills.

—Nell Noddings

The missing piece in many violence prevention programs is character development through the cultivation of empathy and self discipline—taught hand-in-hand with academic content. In concert with families, schools have an obligation to help students understand that learning is connected to character and the moral imperatives that bind us as individuals and societies.

—Gene R. Carter

Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.

—George Bernard Shaw

Character consists of what you do on the third and fourth tries.

—James A. Michener

As I stood in the line tonight at the public library, I watched as the clerk told a little girl she couldn't check out a book because she owed a $.29 fine—then I watched the teenage boy behind her dig in his pockets for some change and pay it for her. And then I felt better about the world

—Internet Meme

The best way to teach your grandchildren character is to have a lot of it around the house.

—Unknown

If you wish to glimpse inside a human soul and get to know a man, don't bother analyzing his ways of being silent, of talking, of weeping, or seeing how much he is moved by noble ideas; you'll get better results if you just watch him laugh. If he laughs well, he's a good man.

—Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Values are the foundation of our character and of our confidence. A person who does not know what he stands for or what he should stand for will never enjoy true happiness and success.

—Lionel Kendrick

You can't tell how much spirit a team has until it starts losing.

—Rocky Colavito

Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there.

—Zig Ziglar

Success is the best builder of character.

—Adolph Rupp

One of the best ways to measure people is to watch the way they behave when something free is offered.

—Ann Landers

The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one hour.

—Japanese Proverb

There is no better test of a man's integrity than his behavior when he is wrong.

—Marvin Williams

Character demonstrates itself in trifles

—Louise Imogen Guiney

To really know a man, observe his behavior with a woman, a flat tire, and a child.

—Marcelene Cox

Too much attention to weather makes for instability of character.

--Elizabeth Goudge

Jealousy is the very reverse of understanding, of sympathy, and of generous feeling. Never has jealousy added to character, never does it make the individual big and fine.

—Emma Goldman

There is no human relationship more intimate than that of a nurse and patient, one in which the essentials of character are more rawly revealed.

—Dorothy Canfield

The success of life, the formation of character, is in proportion to the courage one has to say to one's oneself: 'Thou shalt not.'

—Carry Nation (1905)

Sport strips away personality, letting the white bone of character shine through.

—Rita Mae Brown

By men's words we know them.

—Marie de France
(12th Century)

[My] fortitude and steadfastness lie in a two-letter word. The word is 'no,' A number of no phrases [I've] used include saying no to bullying, no to unacceptable salaries and no to professional meetings in a hotel room….'No' helps define yourself, your boundaries and your goals.

—Kim Cattrall

You will move in the direction of the people that you associate with. So it's important to associate with people that are better than yourself.

—Warren Buffett

We are the average of the five people we spend the most time with.

—Jim Rohn

Whenever one person stands up and says, 'Wait a minute, this is wrong.' It helps other people do the same.

—Gloria Steinem

Nothing is more essential to the establishment of manners in a State than that all persons employed in places of power and trust must be men of unexceptionable characters.

—Samuel Adams

Schools are the common denominators in society. Not all children come from poor homes or rich homes. Not all children come from good homes or dysfunctional homes. There are few commonalties among our youth. One thing they all have in common, however, is that they all attend school. Therefore, our schools have the responsibility and opportunity to instill core values and character in the children who cross their thresholds.

—B. David
Brooks and
Frank G. Goble

SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTER

Trustworthiness, respect for others, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizen- ship.

—*Character Counts!*

CHECKLIST FOR POSITIVE MORAL CULTURE

- ➢ Moral and academic leadership from the principal.
- ➢ Schoolwide discipline that models, promotes, and upholds the school's values in all school environments.
- ➢ A schoolwide sense of community.
- ➢ Student government that involves students in democratic self-government and fosters the feeling, 'This is our school, and we're responsible for making it the best school it can be.'
- ➢ A moral atmosphere of mutual respect, fairness, and cooperation that pervades all relationships—those among the adults in the school as well as those between adults and students.
- ➢ Elevating the importance of morality by spending school time on moral concerns.

—Thomas Lickona

The prime goal of public education is to prepare students to achieve in the world. In order for American democracy to continue to thrive, our children must be educated in 'the basics' and, at the same time, be good citizens. Being a good citizen not only requires giving attention to personal behavior and conduct, but assumes that one gives back to the community….Serving others and caring about others demonstrate strength of character. It is, therefore, the responsibility of a good citizen to give back either as an individual or in conjunction with social groups.

—*The Family Learning Association*

A question each of us might ask ourselves is, 'On what foundation did my character develop? Was it through the lessons I learned from my family or from church classes I attended as a child? Was it through the lessons my parents taught on a daily basis as I was growing up? Was it through the citizenship classes in school or through the guidelines for classroom behavior established by my teachers? Was it through reading and studying about history, human behavior, psychology, or sociology? Was it through watching people interact and reading newspaper accounts of daily events? All of us would probably answer that our character developed through a sum of all of the above, and many of us would respond that our most valued character traits are a result of the…guidance of our parents. It would be difficult for us to separate what we believe from the way we act, and our greatest hope is that our actions reflect those virtues of honesty, caring, fairness, responsibility, perseverance and integrity—the same…virtues on which America was founded.

—*The Family Learning Association*

You're not grown until you know how to communicate, apologize, be truthful & accept accountability without blaming someone else.

—Internet Meme

Only in the most difficult circumstances of life does a person's character come to light without concealing. It is only in times of suffering and deprivation that what really belongs to us is revealed, what remains true to us and cannot be snatched from us.

—Herman Hesse

Do for others, not because of what they can do in return but, because of who you are!

—Internet Meme

If you have the character to hang in there when it's tough, you will develop or acquire every other characteristic necessary to WIN in the game of life.

—Zig Ziglar

With all their faults, trade-unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in man, than any other association of men.

--Clarence S. Darrow

The purpose in life is to develop a strong character.

—Socrates

Someone you've known for only ten days could have better intentions for you than someone you've known for ten years. Time means nothing: Character does.

—Internet Meme

We should all be obliged to appear before a board every five years, and justify our existence...on pain of liquidation.

--George Bernard Shaw

Hire character. Train skill.

—Peter Schutz

A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.

—Saint Basil the Great

Don't be anxious about what you have, but about what you are.

Saint Pope Gregory
the Great

Truly, matters in the world are in a bad state; but if you and I begin in earnest to reform ourselves, a really good beginning will have been made.

—Saint Peter
of Alcantara

Inspire not to have more, but to be more.

—Saint Óscar Romero

Humans are under a moral obligation to seek the improvement of our moral character.

—John Stuart Mill

Character is the main object of education.

—Hollis Frissell (1900)

The Jewish religion is an ethical religion. That is, we are taught to do right, to love mercy, do justice, not because there's gonna be any reward in heaven or punishment in hell. We live righteously because that's how people should live.

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg

An educational approach with German roots was adopted by Scandinavian societies in the mid-to-late 19th century had a wide influence on America. It was called *Bildung*, roughly meaning 'spiritual formation.' As conceived by Wilhelm von Humboldt, the *Bildung* approach gave professors complete freedom to put moral development at the center of a university's mission. In the schools across Scandinavia, students studied literature and folk cultures to identify their own emotions, wounds, and weaknesses, in order to become the complex human beings that modern society required. Schools in the *Bildung* tradition also aimed to clarify the individual's responsibilities to the wider world—family, friends, nation, humanity. Start with a soul and move outward.

—David Brooks

The Great Books program….were based on the conviction that reading the major works of world literature and thinking about them deeply would provide the keys to living a richer life.

—David Brooks

By the 1960s deliberate moral education was in full scale retreat [as educators] paid more attention to the SAT scores of their students, and middle-class parents scrambled to find schools that would give their children the best chances to qualify for elite colleges and universities.

—B. Edward McClellan

Nothing in life is of any value except the attempt to be virtuous.

—Iris Murdoch

The old-fashioned models of character-building were hopelessly gendered. Men were supposed to display iron willpower that would help them achieve self-mastery over their unruly passions. Women were to sequester themselves in the world of ladylike gentility in order to not be corrupted by bad influence and base desires.

—David Brooks

Character is formed and displayed as we treat others considerately. This requires not just a good heart, but good social skills: how to listen well. How to disagree with respect. How to ask for and offer forgiveness. How to patiently cultivate a friendship. How to sit with someone who is grieving or depressed. How to be a good conversationalist.

—Iris Murdoch

As bad a dresser as I am, anything beats being judged by my character.

—David Sedaris

If you ever find your self in the position to hire someone, hire for character and train them for skills. The quality of one's character is far more important than knowing the skills required for a job at hand. Skills can always be taught, but a jerk will always be a jerk.

—J. Y. Chew

Animals are more than ever a test of our character, of mankind's capacity for empathy and for decent, honorable conduct and faithful stewardship. We are called to treat them with kindness, not because they have rights or power or some claim to equality, but in a sense because they don't; because they all stand unequal and powerless before us.

—Matthew Scully

Tragedy, after all, is the invisible hand that spawns reflection, and reflection bears its fruit in the deepening of one's character.

—Richard Harris

Kind old ladies assure us that cats are often the best judges of character. A cat will always go to a good man, they say.

—Virginia Woolf

To know the good from the bad, study a man or woman's history of actions, not their record of intentions.

—Suzy Kassem

7 BLUNDERS OF THE WORLD THAT LEAD TO VIOLENCE:

1. Wealth without Work
2. Pleasure without Conscience
3. Knowledge without Character
4. Commerce without Morality
5. Science without Humanity
6. Worship without Sacrifice
7. Politics without Principle.

—Mahatma Gandhi

The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.

—Norman Schwarzkopf

If you don't want anyone to know it, don't do it.

--Chinese Proverb

Only a nation that recognizes sweat, toil, hardship, and sacrifice as normal aspects of life can save itself, and these virtues are first learned in the home.

—Fulton J. Sheen

You can meet somebody tomorrow who has better intentions for you than someone you've known forever. Time means nothing, character does.

—*lovewideopen.com*

No marriage is perfect. Those celebrating 30, 40, 50 years of togetherness—they are celebrating forgiveness, tolerance, ignoring husband's stupidity, overlooking the wife's misbehavior. Money does not determine a better marriage, but character and loyalty does.

—*https://ifunny.co*

If the man has not got in him the desire to count, the desire to do good work in whichever line he adopts, then scant is our use for him.

—Theodore Roosevelt

It is a great thing to have a safe and strong body. It is a better thing to have a sage, a strong and a vigorous mind. But best of all is to have what is partly made up of both, partly made up of something higher and better—Character.

—Theodore Roosevelt

My basic principle is that you don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they are right.

—Father Theodore Hesburgh

Would the boy you were, be proud of the man you are?

--Laurence J. Peter

Universities are turning out highly skilled barbarians because we don't provide a frame of values to young people who more and more are searching for it.

--Steven Muller

He without benefit of scruples
His fun and money soon quadruples.

--Ogden Nash

Guilt is a guardian of our goodness.

--Dr. Willard Gaylin

If men were angels, no government would be necessary.

--James Madison

Give me five minutes with a person's checkbook, and I will tell you where their heart is.

--Billy Graham

When students cheat on exams, it's because our school system values grades more than students value learning.

—Neil deGrasse Tyson

The law requires a paper towel ad to be scrupulously honest, but allows political candidates to lie without reproach. What's wrong with this picture?

--Jef I. Richards

We need to care less about whether our children are academically gifted & more about whether they sit with the lonely kid in the cafeteria.

—Internet Meme

Be so good they can't ignore you.

—Steve Martin

The Bible contains 6 admonishments to homosexuals and 362 admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn't mean that God doesn't love heterosexuals. It's just that they need more supervision.

—Lynn Lavner

One of the most disturbing trends is that behavior once considered cheating is no longer thought to be so. Copying homework, for example. An eighth-grader in private school says, 'That's not cheating, it's helping.'

—Regan McMahon

You're not rich until you have things money can't buy.

—Garth Brooks

Dear Santa:

Define 'Good.'

—Internet Meme

‘Agree to disagree’ is reserved for things like ‘I don’t like coffee.’
NOT racism, homophobia, sexism.
Not basic common decency.
Not human rights.
Not the right to be treated equally regardless of race, religion, color, creed or sexual orientation.
We do not have a difference of opinion. We have a difference in morality.

—Internet Meme

It is curious—curious that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare.

--Mark Twain

Law Professor: ‘You’re currently failing your ethics class.’
Me: *slides a $20 across the desk* ‘How about now?’

—*theChive*

As you get older, you’ll realize that a $300 watch and a $30 watch both tell the same time.
A Michael Kors wallet and a Forever 21 wallet hold the same amount of money.
A $300,000 house and a $100,000 house host the same loneliness.
A Ford will also drive you as far as a Bentley.
True happiness is not found in materialistic things. It comes from the love and laughter found with each other.
Stay humble…the holes dug for us in the ground are all the same size.

—*https://themindsjournal.com*

If it’s not yours, don’t take it.
If it’s not right, don’t do it.
If it’s not true, don’t say it.
If you don’t know, keep quiet.

—Japanese Proverb

[Confession Booth]
ME: I committed all 7 deadly sins in 30 minutes
PRIEST: Wow. I gotta hear this.
ME: I was angry and envious of my neighbor so I lazily seduced his wife and ate all his groceries and didn’t share.
PRIEST: You forgot pride.
ME: No, I’m pretty proud of this.

—*https://ifunny.co*

Morality is the difference between what's right and what you can get away with.

—H. L. Mencken

That woman speaks eighteen languages and can't say 'No' in any of them.

—Dorothy Parker

I'm very mild.
I'm very meek.
My will is strong,
but my won't is weak.

—Cole Porter

I was going to sue for defamation of character, but then I realized I have no character.

—Charles Barkley

Some people are so poor, all they have is money.

—Modern Proverb

Many people would be scared if they saw in the mirror not their faces but their character.

—Internet Meme

Once you reach maturity, you can no longer blame your upbringing or your surroundings for the person you've become. There comes a point where your lifestyle and your character become a conscious decision. Every day you choose how to act, how to think, and how to live, making your current reality a matter of personal accountability rather than a result of the past.

—Anyta Semena

When the Titanic sank, millionaire John Jacob Astor IV, a man wealthy enough to build thirty Titanics, gave up his place in a lifeboat to save two frightened children. Another millionaire, Isidor Straus, owner of Macy's department stores, also refused to take a seat, saying, 'I will never enter a lifeboat before other men.' His wife, Ida Straus, then gave her spot to her maid and chose to stay by her husband's side until the end. It was a time when the richest people in the world chose value over survival. Their choices remind us that true wealth is measured by courage, love, honor, and the lives we protect in crises.

—Lacak Alur

All of us are selective sinners. We choose the sins we are comfortable with, and judge others that commit the ones we're not comfortable with.

—Shams Tabrizi

Laws can embody standards; governments can enforce laws—but the final task is not a task for government. It is a task for each and every one of us. Every time we turn our heads the other way when we see the law flouted—when we tolerate what we know to be wrong—when we close our eyes and ears to the corrupt because we are too busy, or too frightened—when we fail to speak up and speak out—we strike a blow against freedom and decency and justice.

--Robert F. Kennedy

The world is in greater peril from those who tolerate or encourage evil than from those who actually commit it.

—Albert Einstein

All of us are selective sinners. We choose the sins we are comfortable with, and judge others that commit the ones we're not comfortable with.

—Shams Tabrizi
(Attributed)

The warehouses are bursting with grain, the bakeries are overflowing with bread, yet the streets are lined with the starving. The only shortage that actually exists in this world is the deliberate, calculated shortage of human empathy.

—Peter Kropotkin



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