

# Brave Heart

(Courage in a World of Compromise)

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, August 1/2, 2015

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## “Character Matters” Judges 14:1-15:20

Character is about spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity is NOT about age, appearance, academics, or achievements. It is about having a Christ-like attitude (Phil2:5). Behavior is the product of choices based on Biblical values (Thermostat/Proactive) vs. Behavior is the product of feelings based on people/things/circumstances (Thermometer/Reactive).

Samson is... (People who lack character are...)

Judges 14:1-4

**1) Impulsive** (feelings driven) vv1-2 What is love? (Hollywood vs. Heaven)  
Hollywood: Love (Lust) is a feeling that is uncontrollable, and equated with sex. (Getting/Consumer)  
Heaven: Love is a choice (Col3:14) that is an action (1Jn3:18), and requires knowledge (Phil1:9). (Giving/Covenant)

**2) Unteachable** (doesn't seek godly counsel) v3 God's prohibition (Ex34:15-16) is not against inter-racial marriage, but against inter-faith marriage (i.e. Ex4:24-26). Three Qualifications for choosing a mate: (Deal Breakers!)  
✓ We must have Spiritual Unity 2Cor6:14-15  
✓ We must have Life Purpose Compatibility Amos 3:3  
✓ We must both be Emotionally Healthy Matt22:37-40; Phil 4:11-13

**3) Assimilated** (into the world) v4; Jn17:15-19; Rom12:2

Vv5-10 Kills a lion with his bare hands and throws an engagement party.

**4) Duplicitous** (two-faced) vv6, 9; Matt6:1-8

**5) Uncommitted** (promise breaker) vv8-9, 10; Judges 16:17, 19; Matt 5:33-37

vv11-15 Samson makes a wager with a riddle at his engagement party.

Verses 16-17

**6) Without Boundaries** (controlled & manipulated by others) Eph4:15

vv18-20 The men answer the riddle with his wife's help and it angers him.

Judges 15:1-5 Samson burns the Philistine grain fields to the ground.

V6 Philistines strike back by killing the woman given away in marriage and her father. Vv7-8 In retaliation Samson kills more Philistines.

Vv9-14 His own people bind Samson with ropes to give him over to the Philistines but he breaks the ropes like they are nothing.

Verses 15-17

**7) Proud** (boast about self) vv12, 16; Pro16:5, 18

**8) Bitter** (uncontrollable anger) 14:19; 15:3, 7, 8; Eph4:26-27; Heb12:15

Verses 18-20

**9) Entitled** (ingratitude/God owes me) vv18-20; Rom1:21

## How to Become People of Character?

**1)** Believe that God is working all things for our good and His glory not only in spite of our sin but even through our sin. 14:4; Acts2:23; Eph1:11; Job42:2

**2)** Know the difference between gifts and fruit: Gifts are given and fruit is grown. 1Cor12, 14; Gal5:22-23; 1Cor13:1-3

**3)** Our personal relationship with God rather than our religious activities is the best indicator of spiritual health. 1Pet2:1-3; 2Pet3:18

**4)** Avoid “Lone Ranger” Christianity. Intimate fellowship in a local church family is the best way to insure growth in character and the integrity of our inner and outer lives. Heb3:12-13; 10:24-25

## Growing Notes

**1)** What is character and what role does it play in making or breaking us in life? What's the difference between a thermometer and a thermostat and how are they good visual aids for helping us to define character?

**2)** Read (or quickly review) Judges 14-15. What stands out to you from this story? Review the nine characteristics of people who lack character. Which one(s) do you struggle with the most?

**3)** Review the four statements under “How to become people of Character”. Which one(s) do you need to work on? What are your next steps in growing or continuing to grow in godly character? Pray.