

Classy or Trashy?

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Ecclesiastes 10:6 Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

- I. A person's character can usually be summed up in two simple words: classy or trashy.
 - A. Classy is a modern word that does not occur in the Bible even in its root form.
 - B. However, there are some words that occur in the Bible that have the same basic meaning that modern language ascribes to the word "class" or "classy."
 - C. The word that we find in the Bible that conveys the same basic idea is "dignity."
 - D. We understand classy to mean "elegant, graceful, admirable, and having or reflecting high standards of personal behavior."
 - E. Dignity means "elevated, worthy, honorable; inspiring respect, graceful."
 - F. So when we speak of someone with "class" we are referring to the fact that they take the high road and not the low road in their behavior, the way they present themselves, and the language they use.
 - G. Trashy needs no explanation – it is the opposite of classy.
 - 1. It is the low road in everything.
 - H. Classy is the high standard and trashy is the low standard.
 - I. Most character can be measured by these two terms.
 - J. How we look, how we sound, and how we act reveals our character to others.
 - 1. These are the basic things by which others estimate our character.
 - K. Like it or not, people establish in their minds our worth, and whether we are worthy of respect or not.

- II. How we look – how we present ourselves
 - A. Our clothing says a lot about our character.
 - 1. It should be appropriate to the occasion.
 - 2. To show up at a wedding or a funeral, or any other formal occasion dressed casually, or sloppy is not classy – it is trashy.
 - 3. It says that you either do not think, or that you do not care about others, or that you do not respect others, or the matter at hand. (funeral, wedding, etc.)
 - 4. It is not the high road, but the low road.
 - 5. It does not impress anyone to think better of you, but worse.
 - 6. Likewise, wearing a suit and tie to work on the plumbing or mow your grass makes a person look foolish and eccentric.
 - 7. Immodest dress is trashy, not classy. There is shame in nakedness, not dignity.
 - 8. No one should see our underwear – that is the low road.
 - B. If we are a slave to fashions and fads we look foolish to others.
 - 1. It shows a lack of stability in our character because we are trying to remake ourselves again and again.
 - 2. To change our appearance with the fads and fashions says that we are trying to redefine who and what we are and what we are about.
 - 3. It makes us look phony and shallow and foolish.

- C. Good hygiene is most important to good character – cleanliness is next to godliness.
 - 1. We lower ourselves in the eyes of others very drastically if we are habitually unclean in our hygiene.
 - D. We should do all our hygiene in private – not public.
 - 1. Putting on makeup, cutting or filing fingernails, combing hair, buttoning up your shirt, picking your nose, scratching.
 - 2. Doing these things in public in front of others does not raise their opinion of you, but causes them to estimate you as a person of low character.
- III. How we sound to others is an important part of how they accurately estimate our character.
- A. People who curse and swear are trashy – not classy.
 - B. It is the low road in language – not the high road.
 - C. It absolutely never makes a good impression on someone to hear another person use profanity.
 - D. It is profanity when we use minced oaths, which is changing a letter or two and going ahead and saying a word that everyone hears as the real thing.

A minced oath is a euphemistic expression formed by deliberately misspelling, mispronouncing, or replacing a part of a profane, blasphemous, or taboo word or phrase to reduce the original term's objectionable characteristics. An example is "gosh" for "God".

 - 1. We hear the “f” word all the time now from people who are supposed to be Christians, and it is very offensive and abominable!
 - E. It is the same thing when we use bathroom talk or suggestive talk that takes the conversation down in the gutter – that is the low road, and it is trashy.
 - F. If we are the loudest person in the room we are making a bad impression on others.
 - 1. Loudness is offensive – not impressive.
 - 2. It does not manifest dignity, but lowliness of character.
 - G. If we are critical of others and always saying something negative about someone else who is not present, we are taking the low road and being trashy. (“talking trash”)
 - H. To speak of others in a positive way behind their back is classy and shows respect for others that causes people to estimate your character much more highly.
 - I. To talk like a redneck when you know better does not make you appear classy, but trashy; it is the low road, not the high road.
 - J. To make bodily noises in public is trashy and causes other people to correctly judge you as being a person of very low character, and thoughtless toward others.
- IV. How we act around others – this shows what kind of character we truly have and others know it by watching our behavior and interaction with others.
- A. We should be real and authentic – not phony and put-on.
 - B. If our character is honorable and we have integrity we never have to pretend or deceive, and we never have to hide behind a facade.
 - C. If we cannot show our true self to the world then our character is not what it should be.
 - 1. And people will pick up right away on our fakery and two-facedness.
 - D. Do not pretend to know things when you don't.
 - 1. This is the low road and it will leave you stranded on a limb for all to see, and you will look foolish and lowly in their sight.

- E. Be attentive to others; put the phone away and don't be looking at it while trying to carry on a conversation with someone, or while they are talking to you.
 - 1. It is very disrespectful and rude to do this and it is offensive, and so naturally lowers that person's opinion of your basic character.
- F. Be responsible and leave things at least as good as you found them.
 - 1. Pick up after yourself; put things back where they belong; be thoughtful of others and avoid causing them trouble or work or expense because of you.
 - 2. Always clean up after yourself and don't leave a mess for someone else to have to deal with.
- G. Be gracious to others and sensitive about their feelings.
- H. Be aware of yourself, and avoid being a nuisance, or getting in the way, or offensive to others.
- I. Be kind, be courteous, and be personable with others.
- J. Have good manners.
 - 1. Speak to others with respect and say "yes ma'am" and "yes sir" and "Thank you" often.
 - 2. If you need to sneeze, use a handkerchief or tissue.
 - 3. Don't wipe your nose on your sleeve.
 - 4. Don't put your finger in your nose or your mouth.
 - 5. Don't burst out in loud laughter so that those around you cringe.
 - 6. Open doors for others, defer to others – give them the opportunity to go before you, or be served first, etc.
- K. How we present ourselves reveals our true character to others.
 - 1. Even though we may try to throw a smokescreen and put up a façade, others can see through and see what we really are.
 - 2. We may fool some of the people some of the time, but we cannot fool all the people all the time.
 - 3. So be real and be aware of what others are really thinking about you, and CARE enough to be the kind of person God wants you to be.

1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

2 Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,