



# *The Skillful Life*

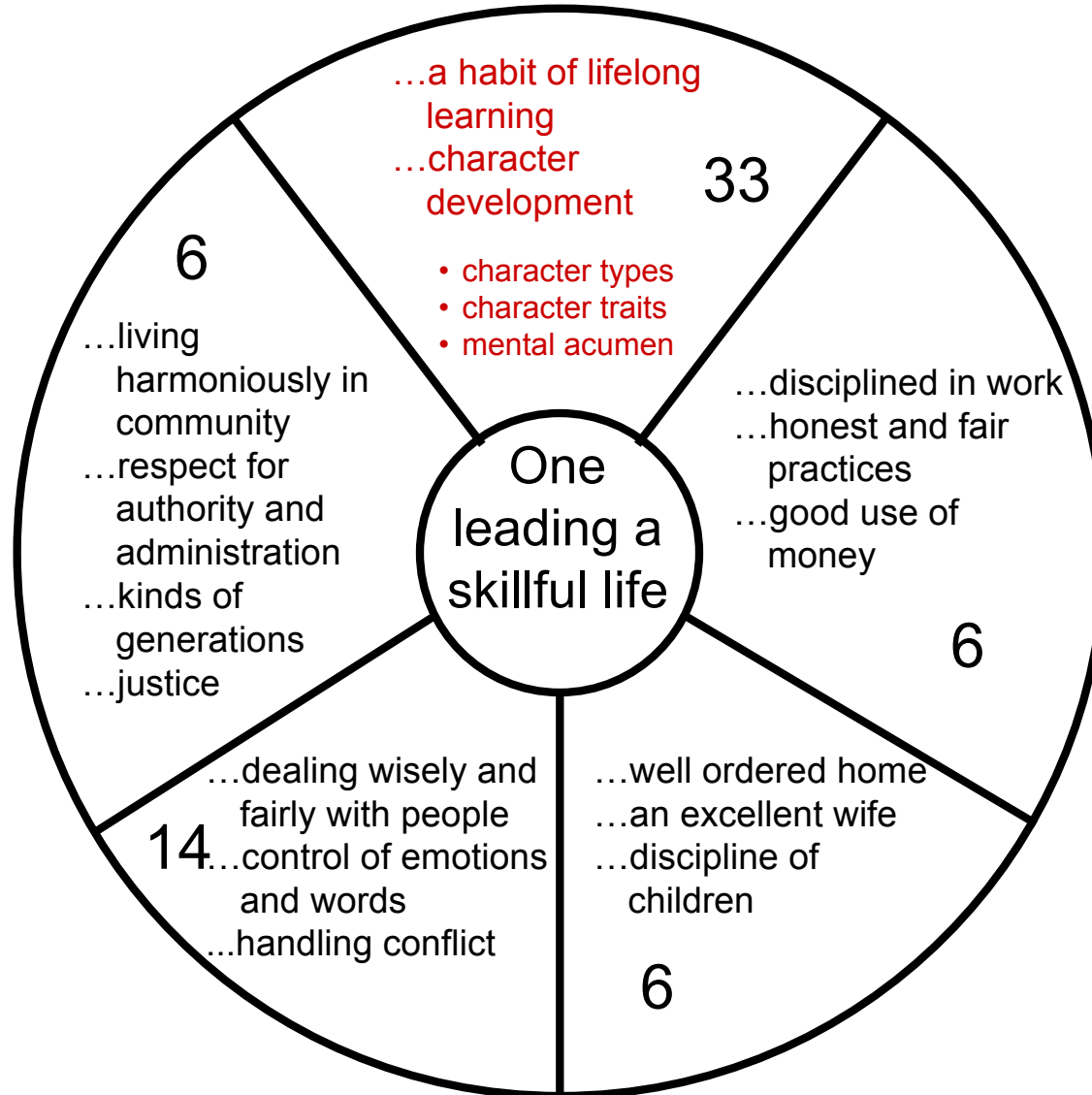
*65 Categories in Proverbs*

artisansh  
and the lifelong pursuit of wisdom



# The Skillful Life

65 Categories



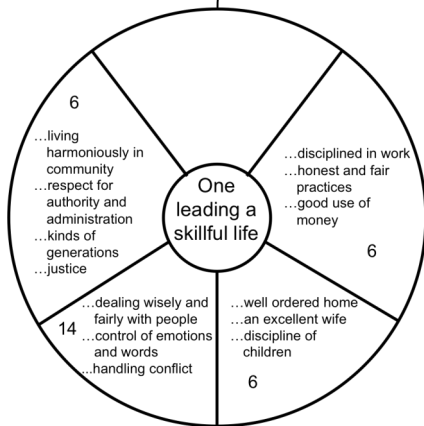
# The Skillful Life

## Character

...a habit of lifelong learning  
...character development

- character types
- character traits
- mental acumen

One  
leading a  
skillful life



# The Importance of Character

Definition:

1. A conventionalized graphic device placed on an object as an indication of ownership, origin, or relationship.
2. One of the attributes or features that make up and distinguish an individual.
3. Moral excellence and firmness.



# The Importance of Character

“Therefore one’s character lies deeper than the values and far deeper than philosophies, allegiances, memberships or accomplishments. Just as a nation’s constitution expresses its fundamental character and makeup, so a person’s character expresses most deeply what constitutes him or her as a unique individual. Character, as rooted in the Greek word for the graphic device depicting a hallmark or distinguishing sign, stamps a person decisively beneath all masks, poses, disguises and social veneers.”

Os Guinness, *Character Counts*



# Having Character

The inherent *goodness* of having character—as opposed to being one characterized by evil—is a moral orientation not just a disciplined life.

There is an obtaining to be had. It is a matter of *desire, searching*; it is something to be *sought after* and pursued.

There is, however at the core, a resource of character that is gained from the Lord—a *bestowal*.



# Having Character

The life of having character—Godly imprinting—is a life well lived. It's just good.

It is a life that is *guided, secure, able to enjoy good things, winsome.*

As opposed to *destroyed by their duplicity, crooked paths that are found out, craving violence, and weighted down.*

... It is a highly desirable life.

... It is a life of enormous strength.



# Having Character

The life of having character is one that provides for *a rich heritage*—a future of *blessings*.

- ... *success* in lifework
- ... *blessing* in a godly heritage

Conversely

- ... *lack of heritage* to pass on
- ... *evil* that will be revisited from *generation to generation*



# Having Character

The *life of having character* is a life of enormous influence in the sphere God gives you.

By virtue of the pattern of the life—that which is imprinted, etched, that which the life is known for—innately carries with it stature, respect and even an authority.



# Having Character

## — *for and refined by God*

Three reoccurring motifs around the importance of having character and its creation in us:

*Core*—Character is the inner form, the orientation of the heart and soul, that produces a “kind” of life that is attractive, influential, and ultimately, glorifying to God its creator, and attractive to others.

*Consistency*—One’s character is revealed best in terms of what he or she reveals consistently, rather than based on a single statement or random act.

*Cost*—The nature of forging such consistency is usually either formed best or revealed most in the crucible of testing, hence the cost.



# The Importance of Character

One who has character . . .

1. Distinguishes himself through a peaceful, settled, intentional life.
2. Carries influence within spheres that God gives to him.
3. Is attaining a heritage that extends longer than oneself.
4. Understands the core nature of the origin of character, which is found in the pursuit of wisdom that starts with the fear of God.



# The Importance of Character

And how does one get it?

It is pursued

- through careful training; desire followed by diligent pursuit and instruction.
- through an attentiveness and submission to the Word.
- through a willingness to listen to the experience and advice of others.
- by staying in the crucible.

**Therefore**

- Go back and lay careful foundations if needed.
- Take all current instruction seriously.
- Learn from those who have this trait.
- Forgive any offenses of others (lay aside pride).



# The Importance of Character

And how does one get it?

It is bestowed . . .

- by God who works together with our desire and diligence to conform us to His image,
- for His greater purposes and the progress of His plans
- through us, through our families, and through the church.

