

Sermon Discussion Questions  
**Character Flaws & Character Awes**

1 Samuel 15-16

January 14, 2018

1. Jeremy shared about an experience he had in seminary where he was a bit shocked by some of the leaders there not displaying godly character. Have you ever had an experience where someone who you thought had good character surprised you in that you saw a character flaw pretty clearly? How did you react?
  - No one (except Jesus) has zero character flaws. When we see character flaws in others we know (or even those we don't know—like famous people) how are we to react?
2. Riding the fence is a character flaw. Read the warning Jesus gave about living this way in Revelation 3:14-16 and describe what you observe in the text. Now read Jesus' remedy for being lukewarm in the next six verses (Revelation 3:17-22) and talk about the application for us today out of that text.
3. Remember the ways you can tell if someone is narcissistic ("It's not my fault" syndrome, or defensive and argumentative)? Do you know anyone like that? If Samuel couldn't get through to him, do we have any hope to help someone with their character when they have a flaw like this? Explain.
  - Look at the way Samuel addressed Saul's sin (1 Samuel 15:22-23). Can we learn from Samuel on how do address character flaws from these verses?
4. Of the four Character Awes, which one could you identify the most with and which one would you relate to the least?
  - Responsible — Is it true that character is shaped in the mundane routines of life, and it shows up when the intensity of life heats up? In our responsibilities of life what influences the formation of our character (either toward the good of bad)?
  - Peaceful — Who do you know seems to bring peace to wherever they go? Do you? Why or why not?
  - On the "well-rounded" character awe, do you agree or disagree with this statement, "The true geniuses of history were not well-rounded, they seemed to specialize in one thing and do it well. Therefore, they may have had a great reputation (at least in their field), yet many lacked good and godly character." Explain who you might be thinking about and why.
    - How well-rounded do you feel others in the HDG are? How can we become more well rounded?
  - God-focused — What does it take to be a man or woman after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14)?
5. In the end, Jeremy said that we have a hard time seeing our own character flaws. How can we allow ourselves to be open to the evaluation of others for the sake of growth and why is that difficult to do?
  - Have you had a discussion with someone who knows you well about asking to give you feedback? How'd that go?