

## CHARARACTER versus TEMPERAMENT

- ✓ **CHARACTER** ~ a term employed to define the moral excellence and firmness--endurance in the face of defeating odds--of a person the term is sometimes equated incorrectly with the term personality itself. Most agree that it refers to the moral or ethical aspect of personality especially considered from the standpoint of specific moral and ethical standards. It is sometimes equated with the idea of integrity and addresses itself to the relative “goodness” or “badness” of a person within his cultural group. People are often described as being of “good character,” or “bad character,” or exhibiting “no character at all.” The latter describing some form of perceived moral or ethical depravity or immorality.
- ✓ **TEMPERAMENT** ~ this concept refers to the general *emotional nature* of a person as determined principally by his inheritance, and to a much lesser extent, his life history. Temperament refers to the characteristic phenomena of an individual’s emotional nature, including his susceptibility to emotional stimulation, his customary strength and speed of response, the quality of his prevailing mood, and all peculiarities of fluctuation and intensity of mood. These phenomena are regarded as dependent upon constitutional make-up and are, therefore, largely hereditary in origin.