

**JESUS CHANGES THINGS**  
**R.E.C.O.V.E.R. Your Capacity to Love Part 8**

**V oluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask him to remove my character defects .**

*"Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him...and let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind."*  
Rom 12:1-2 (GN)

**I. WHERE DO MY CHARACTER DEFECTS COME FROM?**

**My CHROMOSOMES**

Genetics explain predisposition but don't excuse sin!

**My CIRCUMSTANCES**

Character defects are often attempts to fill unmet needs.

**My CHOICES**

Character defects are often positive qualities being misused.

**II. WHY IS IT SO HARD TO CHANGE THEM?**

1. Because I've had them so long
2. Because I identify with them.
3. Because they have a payoff.
4. Because Satan discourages me.

**III. HOW DO I COOPERATE WITH GOD'S CHANGE PROCESS?**

*"..Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* Rom 12:2

1. Focus on changing one defect at a time.

*"An intelligent person aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions."* Prov. 17:24

2. Focus on victory one day at a time.

*"Give us this day our daily bread"* Matt. 6:11

*"Don't worry about tomorrow, each day has enough troubles of its own."* Matt. 6:34

3. Focus on God's power not willpower

*"Can a leopard take away his spots? Nor can you who are used to doing evil now start being good."* Jer. 12:23 (LB)

BUT...

*"I can master anything with the help of Christ who gives me strength."* Phil 4:13 (JB)

4. Focus on what I want, not what I don't want

*"Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure...Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about..."* Phil. 4:8 (LB)

5. Focus on doing good, not on feeling good.

*"If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence."* Gal. 5:16 (JB)

6. Focus on people who help me, not hinder me.

*"As iron sharpens iron, so people can improve each other."* Prov. 27:1 (NCV)

7. Focus on progress not perfection

*"God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task with you is finally finished..."* Phil 1:6