

**CHARACTER COUNTS!**  
"The culture of FRIENDS" part 2  
Jeff Wall

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*  
Rom 12:2NIV

*"I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time."*

Romans 7:18-19 (MSG)

*"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."* 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

**THE BATTLE FOR YOUR CHARACTER**

**CULTURE SAYS CHARACTER IS CONNECTED TO EXTERNAL VALIDATION.**

*"When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, 'Surely this is the Lord's anointed!' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'" 1 Samuel 16:6-7 (NLT)*

**WOMEN**

1. APPEARANCE
2. ACTIVITIES
3. ATTACHMENTS

**MEN**

1. CONQUER
2. CONFORM
3. COMMAND

**COMMON DENOMINATOR: OUTSIDE-IN PROCESS**

## GOD SAYS CHARACTER IS CONNECTED TO A DESIRE FOR PERSONAL CHANGE.

*"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it." James 1:22-25 (NLT)*

*"Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfalling love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you." Hosea 10:12 (NIV)*

### WOMEN

1. ACCEPT APPROVAL FROM GOD
2. ACCEPT "ALONE" OPPORTUNITIES
3. ACCEPT ACCOUNTABILITY TO CHANGE

### MEN

1. SURRENDER TO GOD
2. SUBMIT TO TRUTH
3. SHOW INITIATIVE

## COMMON DENOMINATOR: INSIDE-OUT PROCESS

### How Do We Help Each Other?

**Women Helping Men** Women can help men by focusing on the "inner man." Raise the bar! Look for a man of character. Men will respond to your expectations. Men also respond to praise. As you see the men in your life taking the initiative to change, verbalize your support for that change.

**Men Helping Women** Men can help women in their quest for character by acknowledging the positive change they see and validating it. Men can help by demonstrating integrity, self-discipline, self-control, and honesty in their relationships with women.

*"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me." I Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)*

*"After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'" Acts 13:22 (NIV)*

**GET HEALTHY!**