LEADING TRANSFORMATION #10:  
SOURCES OF GOOD CHARACTER (PART 1)

– “People of genius are admired. People of wealth are envied. People of power are feared. But only people of character are trusted.” (A. Friedman).

Where do we get our concepts and motivations for Good Character?

CONSCIENCE  
The first obvious source is the God of creation. Because we are created in His image, we share in His character. The Fall of Adam and Eve affected the perfect nature of God’s image in us. Hence the natural human character since the Fall is a distortion of the perfect character of God. God has placed in each human a natural “sensor” for what is right and what is wrong. This is what we call conscience. Some describe conscience rightly as the "God-part of humans." Through our conscience we have an appreciation for good or evil behaviors. A person who has a pattern for good behavior is a person of good character.

The ability to listen to one’s good conscience and choose to live by it in spite of external influences is a measure of a person’s maturity.

NATURE  
The second source of the idea of good character is nature. When we observe nature, we see there is a natural order of things. There is the day time for work, and there is the night time for resting. There is the time to be happy, and then there is the time to mourn or be sad. When we see things out of their natural order we know that something is wrong. A person whose behavior follows the normative pattern of the social setting is considered a person of good character.

Then there is beauty in nature. Humans have an appreciation for beauty. Beauty brings joy to people. As the saying goes, “A thing of beauty is a joy forever.” Though beauty is relative, all humans do appreciate what they consider to be beautiful. When a person’s normal behavior follows the norm of a particular social setting it can be considered beautiful. There are then people who have beautiful behavior patterns and those who do not. (To be continued ... )