**LEADING TRANSFORMATION #9:**  
WHAT IS GOOD CHARACTER?

We have looked at some characteristics of “leadership goodness”—integrity, transparency, approachability, accountability, vulnerability and the inclination to forgive and reconcile. What lies at the root of leadership goodness is good character. What is good character? If we were to respond to this question in a relativistic sense, good character will depend on individual or community values. The traits that will be attributed to good character will therefore be subjectively determined. The end result will be societies that do not have common standards for differentiating between right and wrong, or good and evil. We can only have common basis for determining what is right or wrong in our societies when we have common moral standards. This brings us to God, who is the only person attributed with absolute character traits.

The character traits of God include love, righteousness, patience, truthfulness, mercy, grace, justice, peace, forgiveness, forbearance, wisdom, power, and courage. These virtues are absolute character traits of God. They form the basis for determining good character in human relations. It is by such a consideration that we propose that GOOD CHARACTER IS SIMPLY GOD-LIKENESS. A person of good character is loving, righteous, patient, truthful, merciful, gracious, just, peaceful, forgiving, forbearing, wise, strong, and courageous.

God-likeness is the foundation for leadership goodness.

This argument can be countered by those who hold the view that nothing is absolutely true. To this we should respond: “If nothing is absolutely true, then it is not true that nothing is absolutely true.” The starting point for transforming leadership is the theocentric proposition that God is the standard for goodness in life and leadership.

Yeshua the Messiah, as God incarnate, translates perfectly into human imagination and language “God-likeness.” He therefore becomes our vision and standard for determining God-likeness in human relations.