



## PILLAR 2

### PERSONA

Persona is who you really are and how you respond and react to different situations in life. It consists of both what you portray to others on the outside, but also the core of who you are on the inside. It's also your internal default mechanism in stressful times.

*The position a person occupies in the world depends on the quantity and the quality of the service he renders plus the mental attitude which he relates to others.*

**Andrew Carnegie**

# 1

## WILL THE RIGHT PERSONA PLEASE STAND UP?

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2*

1.1 | At some point your true persona will bleed through any mask we wear.

1.2 | A man of integrity has both a healthy persona not only on the outside, but also on the inside.

1.3 | Many men are confused about who they are supposed to be.

1.4 | Society tells men they must be strong, confident and resolute one moment and soft, sensitive and flexible the next.

1.5 | Men wrestle with all these competing demands in a world where many have either had flawed or no role model teaching them while growing up.

1.6 | God has also wired us with personality traits that need to be shaped by God and personal growth to have a godly persona.

# 2



## EXERCISE

What are 3 strengths you have in your persona?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

# 2

## PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2.1 | Attitude and character are two areas that can be changed through purposeful growth.



*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor. 3:18*

2.2 | Attitude consists of our feelings, disposition and orientation of the mind we have toward a person or thing.

2.3 | Character includes moral behavior, ethical behavior and our reputation.

2.4 | Your character over time will determine your legacy!

2.5 | Your attitude and character develop over time.

2.6 | Significant attitude and character change will take significant time and effort!



## EXERCISE

What are 3 areas of your persona that could use improvement?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

## 3

## THE POWER OF YOUR INNER CIRCLE

3.1 | Many men are distant from their spouses and have few, if any, close friends.

3.2 | Our inner circle has a huge impact on the quality of our life - emotions, fulfillment, spiritual walk, and financial status.

3.3 | John Maxwell, in his book *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, says, “Every leader’s potential is determined by the people closest to him.”

3.4 | Most men never think of the consequences of their inner circle until deep into adulthood.

3.5 | Many men find themselves trying to build a positive inner circle as adults.



## EXERCISE

List 3 key people in your inner circle who help make you a better man.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

## 4

### YOUR DAD: THE KEY TO YOUR INNER CIRCLE

4.1 | Your relationship with your dad sets the “norm” for you.

4.2 | God’s purpose for fathers is to establish norms, boundaries, and behaviors that are both godly and wise.

4.3 | Some men have benefitted greatly from their father’s influence while others have been left floundering due to the lack of guidance received.

4.4 | Without the proper teaching and fathering, many men are either left with a flawed game plan or no game plan at all for life!

4.5 | When life’s storms hit, we need to lean on our game plan and men in our life.



## PAUSE

What areas do you need to improve in your game plan to win in life?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

## 5

### YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR PERSONA

**5.1** | The reality is that we all have the ability to change both on the outside and the inside!

**5.2** | God tells us that not only our behaviors but that our mind can be changed!

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor. 3:18*

**5.3** | So our mind can be shaped by the world - our surroundings and experiences, or by God and we get to choose which one it will be on a daily basis.



## PAUSE

What areas of my thinking are wrong or damaged by my life experience and need to be renewed?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

6.1 | It's not a matter if you're going to get blindsided by life, it's a matter of when.

6.2 | When the storm hits us, we need to rely on our character, spiritual strength and inner circle of friends.

6.3 | In addition to these things, we need to have a plan that can be adjusted with the different storms and stages of life.



## PAUSE

Who are the three most important go-to men in your inner circle?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

# THOUGHTSCRIPTUREDISCUSSION

## ADDITIONAL STUDY VERSES

- 1 Chronicles 4:10
- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Psalm 141:1
- Jeremiah 29:11-13; 33:3
- Daniel 9:3
- Matthew 5:44; 6:5-9
- Mark 11:24
- Luke 11:1
- John 14:14; 15:7; 16:24
- Romans 8:26
- Philippians 4:6
- Colossians 4:2-3
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- James 4:2-3, 6; 5:16
- 1 John 5:14
- Revelation 5:8

## EXERCISE

List your strengths and weaknesses, then share it with a close trusted friend and ask for their totally honest feedback. This can help you build your positive persona!

2

### STRENGTHS

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### WEAKNESSES

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### COMMENTS

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## ATTITUDE

What needs to change? \_\_\_\_\_

What are you specifically willing to do to change your attitude?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

## CHARACTER

What is the biggest area of your character that needs to change? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List at least 3 specific actions you can take to build a stronger character:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDING YOUR INNER CIRCLE - what type of people do you need around you?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

2