



<b>DATE</b>	February 3, 2019
<b>SPEAKER</b>	Jared Petty
<b>TITLE</b>	Valuing Character Over Performance
<b>SERIES</b>	When we envision a dream home, we think of a luxurious house featuring all the latest trends. But a house doesn't make a home. What if the ideal home isn't one with rich with features, but rich in godliness? How do we make our godly dream homes a reality?

In honor of Super Bowl Sunday, Pastor Jared opened his sermon on “Valuing Character Over Performance” by quoting words of wisdom from NFL player Nick Foles. Another NFL player, Aaron Rodgers also provides some good advice:

“Authenticity is everything! You have to wake up every day and look in the mirror, and you want to be proud of the person who’s looking back at you. And you can only do that if you’re being honest with yourself and being a person of high character. You have an opportunity every single day to write that story of your life.”

In your view, is it easy or difficult to see/know another person’s character? How do you decide whether someone else has good character? Are you always right? Do you believe that first impressions are accurate in determining someone’s character?

In today’s message we heard that wealth, beauty, fame and power are the world’s primary measures of performance or success. Why do so many people put equal or greater effort into improving their performance in these areas rather building character or goodness?

In raising children or with close family and friends, do conversations more often involve discussions of character or performance and success? If you feel that conversations usually involve performance and success, what can you do to change this pattern?

Do you know anyone so focused on living a life of character that they are out of step with most of the world? Would this be a good thing to develop in your children or yourself? Do you think that good character and high performance are mutually exclusive?

Pastor Jared referenced C.S. Lewis' statement regarding reputation vs. character. Which of these do you put your focus on? Take a moment to be honest with yourself, who are you when no one is around? How can you be more focused on building character rather than performance?

We try to stay healthy and take care of our ‘physical hearts’ by exercising, eating better and regular doctor appointments. How are you trying to keep your ‘spiritual heart’ healthy?

Pastor Jared said that we cannot build a dream home unless we first give God our hearts and that if the heart is transformed, our behavior is transformed. What would transformation of your heart look like to you?

It is perfectly fine to be successful in this life; however, it is not okay to put that life before God. Are there areas in your life that you "handle yourself" and then other areas that you "let God handle?" How can you put God first in all aspects of your life to ensure that your heart is guarded and cannot be deceived?

In Psalm 139:23-24, David is asking God three things: to search him, to mold him and to lead him. Are there areas of your life in which you need to ask God to do these things? What changes do you need to make in your life?

Psalm 139:23-24 says: 23) Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24) See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

What practical steps can we take to allow God to search us and join Him in searching ourselves? How can we identify the sources of our anxious thoughts or offensive ways?

What changes in character might we see from more time in prayer, Bible reading or positive sources of learning or relaxation? Can we identify and reduce sources of anxiety and offensive ways we know are influencing us?

If you have children or have had an opportunity to influence young friends or relatives, what do you believe is the strongest character trait that you have instilled in them? How have you accomplished this?

Do you believe that it is easier for wealthy people to exhibit good character than middle- or lower-income people? Why or why not?