Point of Contrast #12

AUTHENTICITY
Your public versus private persona

“In . . . with bold face she says to him, ‘I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows.’”
Proverbs 7:13-14

She who walks in integrity walks securely.
Proverbs 10:9

In the “Girls Gone Wise” book, read the twelfth point of contrast between the Wild Thing and the Wise Thing (pages 171-179), and then answer the following questions:

A hypocrite is two-faced. She’s a person who deliberately and habitually professes to be good when she is aware that she is not. She puts on a religious face to impress, but secretly behaves in a way that is totally at odds with the faith she professes. Are you a hypocrite? Review the following 7 signs of hypocrisy to find out:

1. Contradiction

Who I am in public is different than who I am in private. What I say doesn’t match what I do. I act like a good girl, but a naughty bad-girl streak percolates under the surface. I pretend to be who I am not.

Does this describe you?  □ NO  □ SOMEWHAT  □ YES

2. Self-Indulgence

I love pleasure more than I love God. I expect God to do what I want, but don’t have any intention of doing what He wants. When I pray, I ask the Lord for things to indulge my passions. I’ll even pray for something that clearly goes against Scripture.

Does this describe you?  □ NO  □ SOMEWHAT  □ YES
3. Focus on Externals

I am more concerned about looking good than being good. I want other people to think that I am very spiritual and have high morals. I am very concerned about how I look to others and what they think about me. I cultivate my “good girl” image by drawing attention to the good things I do.

Does this describe you?  □ NO  □ SOMEWHAT  □ YES

4. Partial Obedience

I am very selective about which parts of Scripture I choose to obey. I’m happy to do the things that draw attention to how “good” I am, but will not obey if it feels uncomfortable, inconvenient, or if it goes against what I want to do.

Does this describe you?  □ NO  □ SOMEWHAT  □ YES

5. Rationalization

I rationalize sin. (e.g. “we’re going to get married”) I come up with all sorts of excuses and reasons to justify my disobedience. I talk myself into believing that what I’m doing isn’t wrong.

Does this describe you?  □ NO  □ SOMEWHAT  □ YES

6. Contempt

I’m critical of others. I’m really good at spotting their failings and short-comings. I have high expectations about how “good” others should be, but aren’t willing to apply that same standard to myself. I feel smug and self-righteous when the sin of others is exposed. I am offended when anyone suggests that I am wrong or that I need to change.

Does this describe you?  □ NO  □ SOMEWHAT  □ YES

7. Chameleon-Like Conduct

I change “color” depending on which environment I am in. If I’m at church, I’m a church girl. If I’m at the party, I’m a party girl. My behavior is dictated by my surroundings and the people I am with.

Does this describe you?  □ NO  □ SOMEWHAT  □ YES

Read James 4:3-8. The way to combat two-facedness is to draw near to God, constantly examine your life for sin, and humbly repent. Why don’t you take some time to do that right now? Write out a prayer asking the Lord to forgive you for facing both ways, and to help you become more and more authentic.