

Point of Contrast #12

AUTHENTICITY

Your public versus private persona

Girl-Gone-Wild

Two-Faced

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

Girl-Gone-Wise

Genuine

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.