



# The Problem...



At Church  
Around Godly people



At School  
Around people to impress



At Home  
Around people who love me anyway

"Your primal and great exemplary is the life of Christ the Lord, then the life of the saints who perfected their faith. You ought not to go with the flow so that you rise when people rise and fall when they fall. But abide in the Lord and do not let anyone cause you to stumble" - H.H. Pope Shenouda III

# Take the test

Do I make the same **effort** in every place / around different people?

Do I use the same **language** in every place / around different people?

Do I **respond** to similar situations in the same way in every place / around different people?

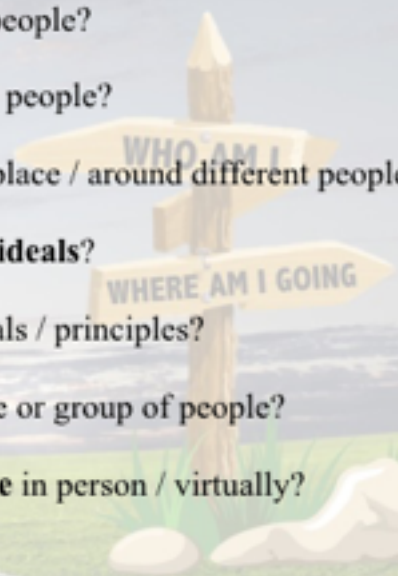
Do the different people I choose to be around have the same **ideals**?

Do the different people I choose to be around **share** my morals / principles?

Am I **equally** proud to be a Christian in every situation, place or group of people?

Have I actively hidden my relationship to Christ from **anyone** in person / virtually?

Do I care about what other think more than God?



# So what if I lead a double life?



“So what if I lead a double life? I make everyone happy. I be who I need to be for whoever and whenever. I can please everyone.”





You may fool everyone here and maybe even yourself but do you think you can fool God? Where is He? What does He not see? Where does He look to judge you? Hebrews 4:13 “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.”

1 Samuel 16:7 “For *the LORD* does not see as man sees;<sup>[a]</sup> for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

“Indeed, it is very dangerous for man to be concerned about the outer appearances in worshipping, without encountering the Lord Jesus Himself, the essence of our worship and mystery of our life. In this case worshipping will not be a cup for salvation, but it will rather carry death for the soul and hardship for the body. Man’s life will be transformed to a beautiful grave from the outside, described by people as spiritually beautiful and pure, for it is painted, where as in its inside it contains a dead and defiled soul, where Christ cannot find a dwelling for Himself in. As St. Jerome says, “Just as the saint is God’s temple, likewise is the sinner who makes of himself a grave.”” – Fr. Tadros Malaty



# So what if I lead a double life?

			
Blind Heart	Hypocritical Heart	Mixed Heart	Pure / Open Heart
Heart's disposition blinds hearer from grasping God's Message.	Enthusiastic at first to God's Word, Rocky Heart shallow & lacks will to strengthen initial gift.	Heart partially commits to Christ, leaving disastrous vulnerability to worldly desires & concerns.	Heart fully dedicated to Jesus is firmly established, reaping fruit of righteousness plentifully.

## Matt 13:9 Parable of the Sower

- The seeds are all the same - the Word of God, only One Sower - the Lord, the soil - us. Though He knows some seeds in certain places won't be fruitful He still spread it. Which soil are you?
- We were all created one good soil. The Lord never made bad soil that is only a result of my neglecting; I do not plough and let the roots thrive.
- 1. RECEIVE, 2. HIDE, 3. TASTE, 4. ACT
- 1. **Closed / Blind heart: NOWATER** to the word of God but opened and used by everyone else (the road which is used by cars, humans even animals, anything goes but in itself is closed &)
- 2. **Hypocrite Heart: NOT ENOUGH WATER** what outside is different than the inside, very superficial, cares only about the appearance, good actors in a good play, but it isn't true,
- 3. **Mixed heart: POLUTED WATER** Opened to everything, self centered,
- 4. **Pure / opened heart: ENOUGH PURE WATER:** Dedicated hearts, "my beloved is a closed garden" song of songs, can't be shared with anybody else..
- WATER** Is the grace of God, the sacraments, the prayers, the spiritual food and drinks ( books, spiritual friends, meetings etc.), I have everyday to nourish and cherish the word of God....
- PURIFICATION** is our strive with God everyday to overcome the temptations inside us...Repentance and confessions..
- WATCHING: THE FEAR OF GOD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM**, To be awake and do the work of God all heartedly.



### Parable of the Five wise Virgins and the Five Foolish Virgins

This is to remind us to always be ready. Don't ever think that you can get away with pleasing different crowds now or that you will only do this temporarily.

The five foolish virgins were VIRGINS! Yet, when they knocked on the door the Groom told them to go away because He didn't know them!

# So what if I lead a double life?



- The Church of Laodicea (the Lukewarm church)
- Rev 3:15-16 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."
- Rev 3:19-21 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. <sup>21</sup> To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."
- "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full." John 15:11





“My son, give me your **heart**” Prov 23:26

1 Cor 3:16-17

2 Cor 6:16

You are also a **temple for God** and He dwells in you

John 14:23

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I am regenerated

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**” John 3:3-5

# What can I do? Is it Hopeless?

Get to know God so that I can know who I am

Joseph the Righteous knew who he was

You are forgiven because of who you are, not what you've done!

What if I keep failing?

Remember who you are!

Keep rising to the challenge and keep fighting.



- My identity is based on who my father is not who I am e.g. visiting newborn, not because of the newborn (they all look, smell, and sound similar!) but because of who their parents are!
- “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6) – because they don’t know who they are
- “The truth will set you free” (John 8:32)
- Is this all possible though?
- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13)
- “What is impossible for man is possible for God” (Luke 18:27)
- PROOF E.g. Joseph the Righteous (before the commandments + has seemingly no reason to be encouraged) – when he was tempted by Potiphar's wife → he knew his identity → he didn't sin
- Luke 15 Parables
- I am continually accepted e.g. lost sheep. It's the sheep's fault for getting lost, so why would the shepherd go after it?! “Let us give thanks... for You have covered us, helped us, guarded us, ACCEPTED US to yourself, spared us...” - Prayer of Thanksgiving
- I am continually Pursued e.g. the woman who searched for the copper coin, if you lost a penny wouldn't you just forget about it?  
Luke 15:10 “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

- I am pre-emptively forgiven e.g. prodigal son → When did the father forgive the son? If I a parent has a child wouldn't they have already forgiven them before they were born? **The son was forgiven because of who he was not what he did**
- **"Do not forget yourself, remember who you are and what is suitable for you, so that you will not sin... Truly forgetfulness precedes sin.** For we forget that we are the image of God, His resemblance and likeness, His children, His dwelling and a Temple for the Holy Spirit. We forget that we are the brothers of Christ, the partners of the Holy Spirit, the partners of the divine nature, the blood. This is why we sin, and if we remember our true state, we would not have sinned. You would have forgotten your glories, or you would have lost them, and lost yourself." – HH Pope Shnoeuda III
- "Do not worry if the beginning is failure, **what is important is that the end is success**" - H.H. Pope Shenouda III
- "I was sitting at the doorway of my desert cell, in Al-Bahr Al-Farigh. I saw an ant climbing a mound of sand, when suddenly the sand gave way beneath it and it fell...And as soon as it fell, it did not hesitate for a single moment before beginning to climb once again. And again the sand collapsed beneath it and it climbed up quickly without letting failure push it into despair. It repeated this in front of me a great many times until it finally climbed to the top. I was very astonished at this little ant, and learned a lesson from it. I said to myself, I haven't yet reached the level of this persevering little ant, nor reached its **determination which will not admit to any failure.**" - H.H. Pope Shenouda III
- "When you fall into a trial, remember that **there is always a door standing open** in heaven" H.H. Pope Shenouda III
- "Even if I fall a hundred times on the way, **I shall rise and proceed** on my way... I shall never accept despair because it is from the devil." – H.H. Pope Shenouda III