THE SEARCH FOR AUTHENTICITY

They are different words, but the meaning is the same: poseurs, show-offs, frauds, knock-offs, shams, wannabes, and sell-outs. Being fake is a public transgression in many subcultures, especially in the teen and young adult years. In the developmental years of one’s social life, being a fake by compromising standards of individuality and authenticity are akin to sin.

It’s a fine line though, as many try to be “real” and authentic but still end up being within the boundaries of another community. There are those who are trying to “find themselves” by doing all sorts of socially unacceptable things. But what is unacceptable in one group is then established to be the norm in a subset of the community, and the pattern starts all over again.

Regardless of the sociological causes, it’s the desire to be authentic, genuine, and true that feeds this phenomenon. The question that often remains unanswered is: What is authentic and true? Secular society, through the history of philosophy, has sought to find where truth lies, from “essences” and “quintessences” out there to “true forms” down here. Others have compared and contrasted cultures, genders, historical eras, and even species to discover where the locus of truth lies. Where science cannot venture, artists have created imaginary worlds and posited theoretical possibilities and permutations of truth.

All the while, the human question and the human problem still exist and continue. This week we will look at where the place of change occurs and how this impacts our understanding of the will of God.
Write out Matthew 23:13–30 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Matthew 23:27–30. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Matthew 23:13–30. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How have you asked for and depended on God for internal change at the heart level?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/will6-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Which area of prayer is needed more in your relationship with God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/will6-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

1 Corinthians 10:31–33
Romans 12:1, 2
Philippians 4:8
2 Corinthians 3:18
Psalm 51:1–17

What other verses/promises come to mind when thinking about the inside and the outside?

Where do you see Jesus in Daniel 6?

Where is Jesus in our standards of Christian lifestyle and behavior?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/will6-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/will6-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How have you been a wannabe or fake in the past? Have you felt pressure to be fake as a Christian? Why?

What is it about the human heart that refuses and even despises change?

Which of the two ditches (internal change only; external change only) are more prevalent in your life? Which of the two ditches are more dangerous in the church? Why?

As Christians, if we aren’t representing Christ, who are we representing instead?

How do we center our beliefs in Christian standards and lifestyle on Jesus Christ more?

How does this week’s lesson impact knowing God’s will for your life?