



# IMPERSONATING OURSELVES



THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FALSE SELF

## Part IV - The True Self

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**“Few of us have the imagination to see reality.”**  
– Goethe

## The False Self: A Definition



- ☞ Any **Mask** we hide behind in order to get what we want in life and avoid what we don't
- ☞ Any **Disguise** we construct to cover our pride, fear, wounds and needs
- ☞ Any **Identity** we accept other than our true identity in Christ - the forgiven and unconditionally beloved child of God

**“Our [False Selves] are like crows. They pick up everything that glitters, no matter how uncomfortable our nests get with all that metal in them.”**

**- Thomas Merton**

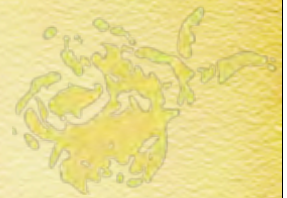
# The Journey:



False ☞ Real ☞ True

- ☞ To the degree we acknowledge and understand our **False Self**...
- ☞ And live humbly and hopefully in the unavoidable tension our **Real Self**...
- ☞ God releases our **True Self**, deepening our intimacy with Him and others and propelling us toward our created potential

# False ☞ Real ☞ True



- ☞ What is the True Self?
- ☞ Real Self / True Self
- ☞ Increasingly Living from our True Self
- ☞ Colossians 3:1,3 - our True Self is  
“Hidden with Christ in God”

**“The root of Christian love is not the will to love, but *the faith that one is loved. The faith that one is loved by God although unworthy...*”**

**- Thomas Merton**

# False ☞ Real ☞ True

The True Self is who, in reality, you are and who you are becoming. It is not something you need to construct through a process of self-improvement or deconstruct by means of psychological analysis.

We do not find our True Self by seeking it. Rather, we find it by seeking God. In finding God we find our truest and deepest self.

- David Benner

“Now, I wonder whether I have sufficiently realized that during all this time God has been trying to find me, to know me, and to love me. The question is not ‘How am I to find God?’ but ‘**How am I to let myself be found by Him?**’”

- Henri Nouwen


“May I know **You**, that I may know **myself.**”

- Augustine

# Men & the True Self



Increasingly:

- ☞ Peaceful - at rest, nothing to prove (to self or others)
  - ☞ Free - neither controlled by nor reacting against
  - ☞ Powerful - but doesn't need it to be recognized
  - ☞ Small - but larger than it appears
  - ☞ Tender - but not experienced as weakness
- 





“Define yourself radically as one Beloved by God. This is the True Self. Every other identity is an illusion.”

- John Eagan

“As the Beloved, I can confront, console, admonish, and encourage without fear of rejection or need for affirmation. As the Beloved, I can suffer persecution without desire for revenge and receive praise without using it as proof of my own goodness. As the Beloved, I am free to live and give life, free also to die while giving life.”

- Henri Nouwen

# So...How Do We Participate In This?



## ☞ **Metaphors of Sanctification:**

### ☞ Faith, Hope & Love:

- ☞ On the Sailing of Boats
- ☞ Cliff - Jumpers for Jesus
- ☞ Lives of Dissipation
  - ☞ List for Fasting
  - ☞ Solitude & Contemplation





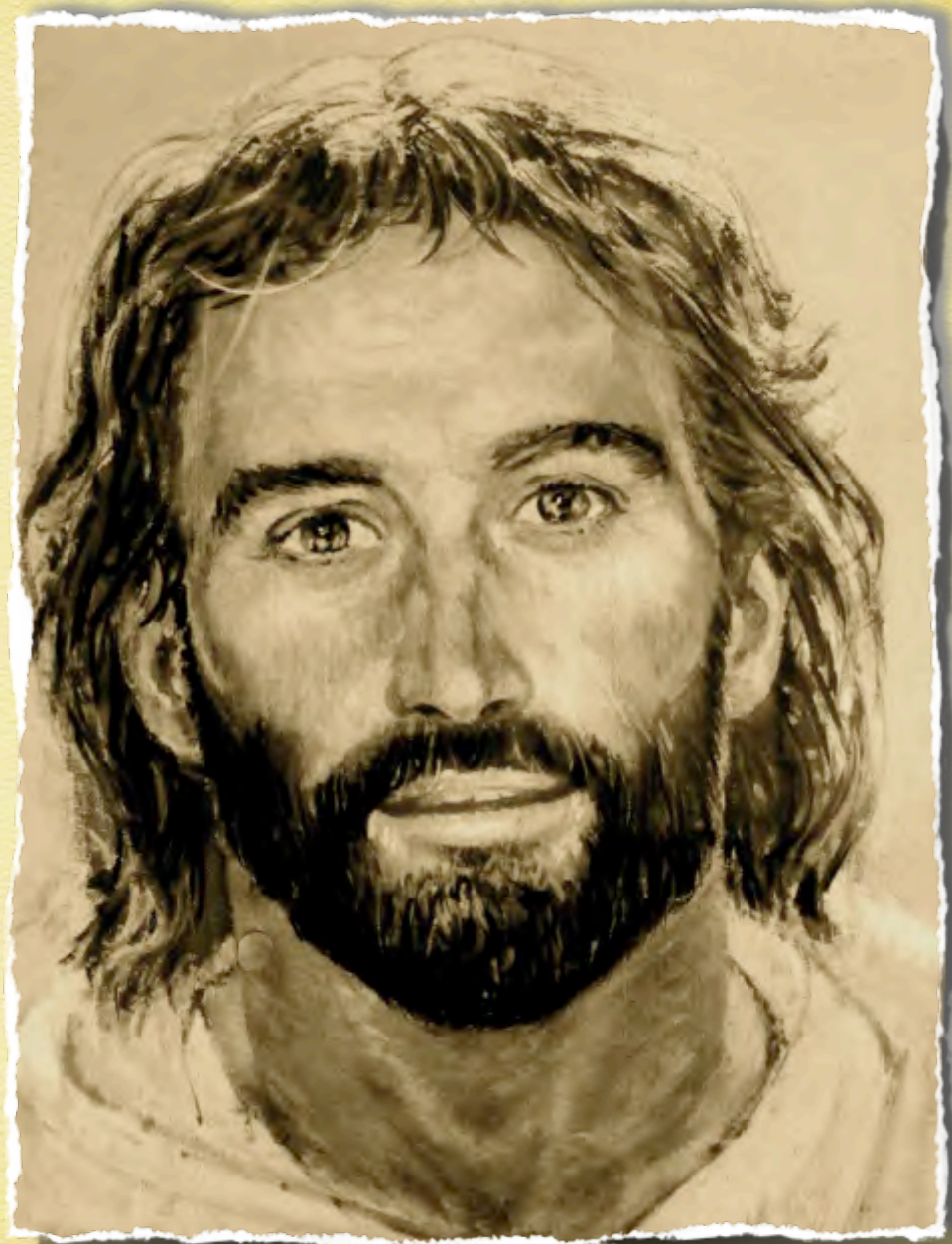
It is one of the most unmistakable aspects of reality that the life of man can only be changed over a long span of time... To be man is never to be perfect, but to strive in willing openness toward a limited perfection which one is allowed to reach in one's life.

- Adrian Van Kaam





**The only  
“You”  
that can  
“contribute a verse”  
of value or impact  
is your  
True Self..**





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Next: **Closing Thoughts + Q&A**

**At:**

***The Vine Community Church***  
***Cumming, GA***