

The Wesley Challenge
January 12-February 1, 2025
St. John's UMC / Texas City

Week Three / January 26-February 1

Sunday, January 26

Question 15: Do I thank God that I am not like others?

Read Luke 18:9-14, Colossians 3:12

Comparing ourselves to others is not healthy. We must realize that we all have issues in life that keep us from the true identity God has designed for us. Count the number of times you compare yourself to others today. What are the comparisons you make? Do you tend to find yourself lacking in some way or do you find you are grateful you are not them?

Monday, January 27

Question 16: Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?

Read 2 Timothy 1:6-9

Faking it--pretending to be better than we are—actually keeps us from knowing who we *really* are. God doesn't want the fake version of you. God wants the real you, the authentic, flawed, real version of you. God isn't interested in blaming or judging. God is interested in growth, love, and honesty. Who in your life knows the real you? How can you be more real with people?

Tuesday, January 28

Question 17: Do I confidentially pass on to others what was told to me in confidence?

Read Proverbs 11:11-13

When we break trust by sharing information told to us in confidence, we damage our character. When we as Christians cannot keep secrets or hold confidential matters private, we sabotage the very sense of community Jesus came to create. Think of the most trustworthy friend you have, and take time today to thank this person for the trust in your relationship.

Wednesday, January 29

Question 18: Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?

Read: 2 Corinthians 7:1

These behaviors live inside of all of us. When we express them, we let circumstances and situations direct our behaviors. We need to be disciplined enough to keep our emotions in check. Which of these characteristics do you most struggle with? The next time you find yourself reacting to one of these characteristics, ask what is really driving your emotions.

Thursday, January 30

Question 19: Am I honest in all my actions and words, or do I exaggerate?

Read: Colossians 3:9-11

Sometimes we lie. Sometimes we exaggerate. Sometimes we pretend we are more important than we really are. Wesley asked this question so we would reflect on our character and find our identity in Christ. Commit to a "no exaggeration, no lie" policy for the next 24 hours. Be grateful. Be content. Be the real you.

Friday, January 31

Question 20: Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward, or disregard?

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

We cannot fully live the Christian life, as Jesus meant us to, until we are at peace not only with God and ourselves but also with others. This relational separation is not what Jesus wants for our lives. Find a moment today to say a kind thing to a person you dislike or have intentionally steered clear of.

Saturday, February 1

Question 21: When did I last speak to someone about my faith?

Read: Matthew 28:19-20

When John Wesley challenges us with this question, he is directly encouraging us to take up the challenge that Jesus gave his disciples in Acts 1:8, to be his witnesses or storytellers. Who first shared his or her faith with you? Do you show your faith more through your words or deeds?

Material for these short devotions comes from *The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith*, by Rev. Chris Folmsbee.