

Week Six
Morph Me

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INTRODUCTION

The exercise that follows is simple. It is so simple, in fact, that it could be faked. The questions are not lengthy. The thoughts are not complex. The time needed to fill in the blanks could be mere minutes.

Or the exercise could take time, be profound, and change your life.

Very simply, you're asked to do two things.

- 1) Talk with God about you.
- 2) Talk with at least one other person about you.

The curious thing about hypocrisy is that while it is almost immediately evident in others, it is terribly difficult to see in ourselves. As hypocrites, we are masters of self-justification. So if you really want to discover if there are areas of hypocrisy in your own life, asking others is a powerful tool.

You will ask God and others two questions leading to the one question we're carrying with us from the reading. The two questions address legalism and licentiousness. The one question is an honest look at your true God.

Given the nature of these questions, consider who you question carefully. This person (or people) could be from your Small Group or Running Partners, or you may want to consider asking somebody outside this *Morph* experience to gain a fresh perspective. Most importantly, consider two factors.

- 1) Do I trust this person?
- 2) Does this person know me well enough to answer the questions effectively?

Finally, a word of caution. Throughout this exercise, guard against condemnation. Yes, the purpose is to surface hypocrisy, but the purpose of surfacing this hypocrisy is not self-loathing but freedom. Conviction brings freedom and is from God; condemnation brings oppression and is from the enemy. While both conviction and condemnation are deeply penetrating and often painful, only conviction is accompanied by a sense of hope and promise for the future. Scripture reminds us that there is "*no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*" (Romans 8:1). God brings conviction because he wants for us a better tomorrow. The enemy brings condemnation because he wants for us a life of despair. As you engage this exercise listening for God's voice through prayer and through others, be careful to stay open to hopeful conviction while guarding against despairing condemnation.

STEP I: WRITE A PRAYER

Essential to this exercise is an open and humble heart. Use this page to write a prayer to God. Ask God to give you eyes that see what he wants you to see and ears that hear what he wants you to hear. Ask for a humble and open heart. Ask that you hear his voice of conviction and not the accuser's voice of condemnation.

STEP 2: ASK GOD

Ask God the following two questions and record any response you hear in the space provided:

- ▶ Legalism: Do I carry the name of Christ while inwardly still trusting in myself or something other than you?

- ▶ License: Do I use grace as a license to sin?

Ask God the following summary question and record any responses you hear in the space provided:

- ▶ Are you my God?

STEP 3: ASK OTHERS

Ask one or two trusted friends the same questions and record their responses in the space provided. If the friend(s) are not currently going through *Morph*, have them read the closing paragraphs of the reading with the heading *Legalism and License*.

- ▶ Legalism: Do you sense that I carry the name of Christ outwardly while inwardly still trusting in myself or something other than God?

- ▶ License: Do you see areas of my life where I use grace as a license to sin?

Ask your friend(s) the following summary question and record any responses you hear in the space provided:

- ▶ Is God my God?

STEP 4: FINAL THOUGHTS

As mentioned at the close of the reading, the great irony and tragedy of hypocrisy is that we discover it and then attempt to beat it in our own strength. Use this space to entrust yourself to God. If you have uncovered hypocrisy, bring this before him, ask him for his grace, and ask him for his power to overcome. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to raise us up and out of our sin. *“Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life”* (Romans 6:4).

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