

<p style="text-align: center;">The True Self or as I coin this, "The God-Breathed Self" – our Genesis 2:7 Beginning</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The False Self or as I coin this, "The Staged Self"</p>
<p>Our God-breathed capacity, potential and purpose, enlivened by God at our conception. We are HIS idea and have HIS virtues in our spiritual DNA (Genesis 2:7; Psalm 139).</p>	<p><u>The false self</u> or "staged self" has "grown up and emerged out of our earliest experience and family of origin, where we became self-protective against the primal anxieties of life" (Barton).</p>
<p>Called forth by God (Isaiah 43:7).</p>	<p>This development is unconscious. I like to use the term, "absorbed," because as infants and children, more is "caught than taught." We don't choose our beginnings and have absolutely no control over the emotional atmosphere in our homes.</p>
<p>Our life hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).</p> <p>Life (Greek, zoe), meaning, "life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection to be consummated by new accessions (among them a more perfect body), and to last forever."</p> <p>Hid (Greek, krypto), meaning, "to cover, conceal or keep secret."</p>	<p>Coping skills and defense mechanisms are therefore learned in order to self-protect. It is the old argument "nature vs nurture," yet I personally dislike the term, "nurture," here because it connotes a more positive affect. Early, unhealthy caregivers, even the best and most well-intentioned, often cause unhealthy emotional growth and that isn't positive.</p>
<p>Live in faith, surrendered to a loving Father's wise direction.</p>	<p>Adulthood is often spent or "unlearning" these unhealthy attitudes, patterns and skills. Paul often insists, urges and pleads that we "put off the old self and put on the new" (Ephesians 4:17-24).</p>
<p>Free "to be." Delights in true freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1).</p>	<p>"Enslaved" or "legalistic." Jesus refutes this by reframing a culture of shame and shoulding with grace (John 15:15).</p>