



MASQUERADE

BELOW THE SURFACE

MATTHEW 23:25



I SWEAR

MATTHEW 5:33-36

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.”

Matthew 5:33-36 (ESV)



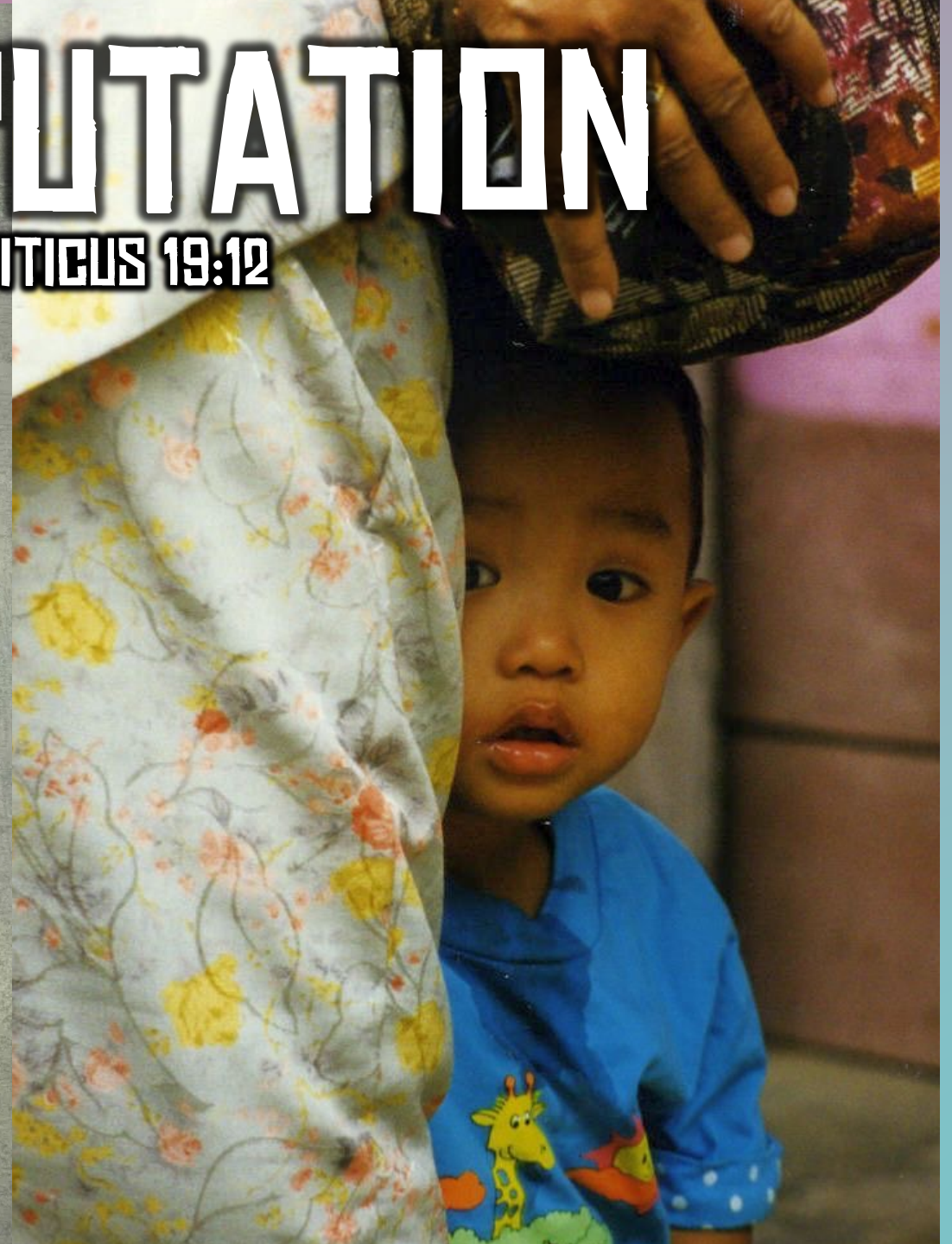
‘I swear to tell my truth.’

GOD'S REPUTATION

EXODUS 20:7, LEVITICUS 19:12

YOU SHALL NOT
MISUSE THE NAME OF
THE LORD YOUR GOD,
FOR THE LORD WILL
NOT HOLD ANYONE
GUILTLSS WHO
MISUSES HIS NAME.

EXODUS 20:7



JUST SAY A SIMPLE 'YES, I
WILL,' OR 'NO, I WON'T.'
ANYTHING BEYOND THIS IS
FROM THE EVIL ONE.

YES

OR

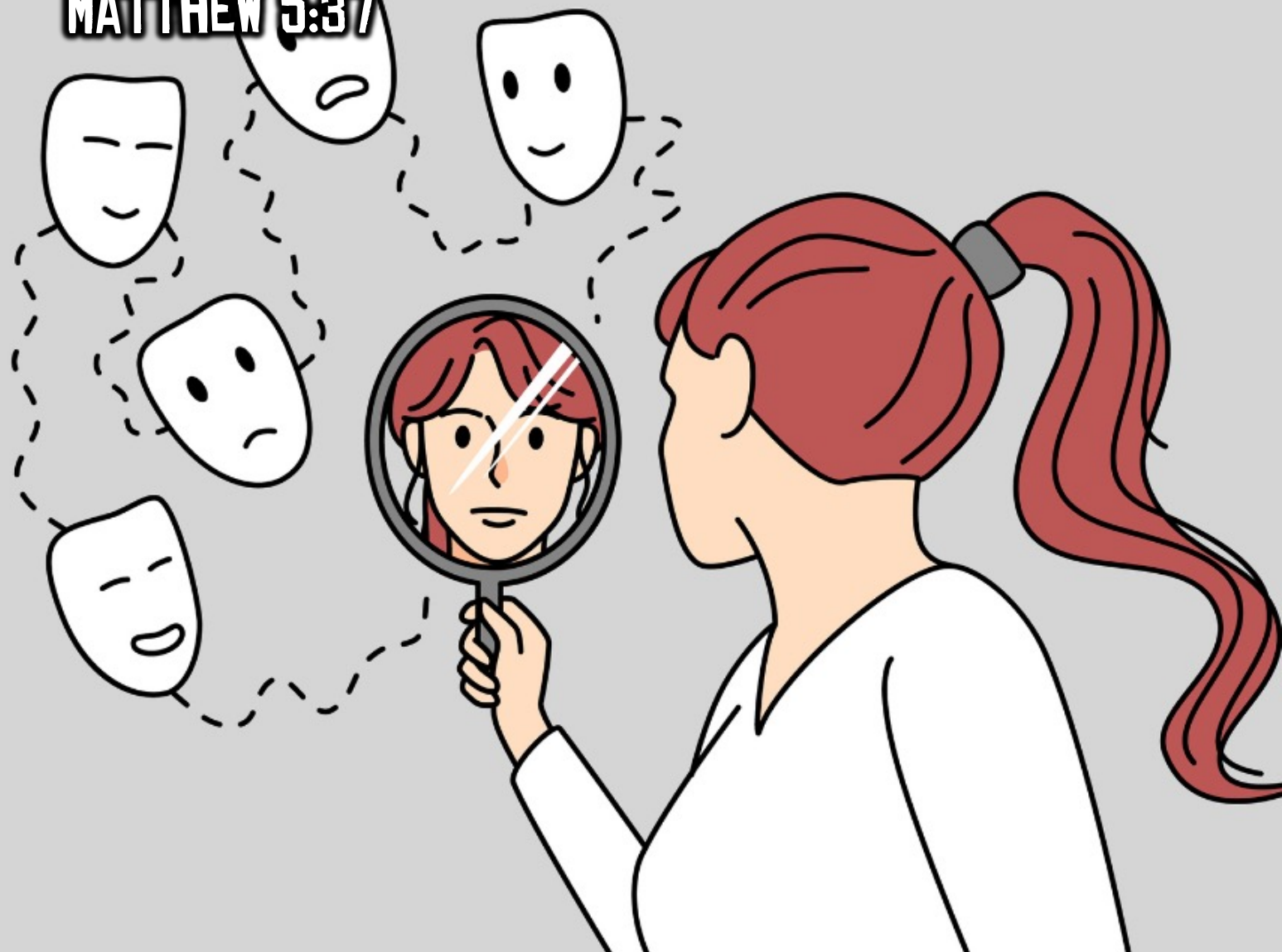
NO

MATTHEW

5:37

SPIN

MATTHEW 5:37



SPIN

“The essence of swearing or making oaths is to try to use something that, though impressive, is irrelevant to the issues at hand to get others to believe you and let you have your way. This is wrong. It is unlike God... We are making use of people, trying to bypass their understanding and judgement to trigger their will and possess them for our purposes. Whatever consent they give to us will be uninformed because we have short-circuited their understanding of what is really going on.”

Dallas Willard - The Divine Conspiracy,

TRUE LOVE DESTROYS FEAR

1 JOHN 4:9-10, 16-19

Ego Love

VS

Authentic Love

I love you based on how you make me feel

Attempts to fix, control or change

Projects unhealed trauma + insecurities

Meet my needs now

I need you to be version of self that feels most comfortable for me

Keeps score of injustices, has tantrums, makes other work on eggshells

I love who you are as a human being

Honors flaws, self-expression+freedom

Owens triggers, apologizes, takes responsibility

Mutual need meeting

I support your highest self + work through my own discomfort

Can have difficult conversations, communicates clearly

— THERE IS —
NO FEAR

LOVE
IN

— BUT —
PERFECT LOVE
CASTS OUT FEAR

because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not PERFECTED IN LOVE

TAKE IT HOME:

We are the kind of people who should be learning to live as authentically and truthfully as possible. Sharing our whole selves. Our stories, our insecurities and fears. Helping people to see beyond the surface. Learning to avoid spin and speaking truth plainly. Non-judgmentally listening and loving others when they share theirs.

If we don't learn authenticity, the consequences can be HUGE:

1. Anxiety and depression.
2. Lack of connection with God and with others.
3. Self-doubt (not knowing the true you) and regret.
4. Difficultly forming and maintaining relationships.