



the **SCENE**

Viewing the latest news through the lens of Scripture

How far would you go to be a different person? Recent history tells the stories of people who have gone far beyond changing a hairstyle or splurging on a new wardrobe. They have undergone multiple surgeries to radically alter their appearance.

Sarah Burge, Real-Life Barbie—A 50-something-year-old housewife and beautician from Great Britain has spent over \$250,000 for plastic surgery. Sarah Burge has undergone over 100 surgical and cosmetic treatments in order to make her look as much like a Barbie® doll as possible. She often dresses like the famous doll and even wore a Barbie-inspired pink wedding gown and veil at her wedding a few years ago.

The surgical transformation began when she was attacked, beaten, and left for dead. Having to have reconstructive surgery on her face began the plastic surgery process to becoming a real-life Barbie. Burge hints that she is not finished with her surgeries. "It's addictive," she says. "You find yourself wondering what you can have done next."

Superfan Herbert Chavez—A man from the Philippines is so obsessed with the Man of Steel that he underwent several plastic surgery procedures just to look like his favorite superhero. Herbert Chavez has a sizable collection of Superman memorabilia, including life-size statues, action figures, clothing, and comics. He loves posing both as Superman and Clark Kent.

Chavez first went under the knife in 1995, and he's had several other procedures since then. He had a chin augmentation to get Superman's cleft, rhinoplasty to get Christopher Reeve's nose, silicone injections for more plump lips, and even thigh implants for a more muscular look.

Catwoman, Jocelyn Wildenstein—Born in Switzerland in 1940, Jocelyn Wildenstein, is an infamous New York socialite known for her extravagant lifestyle. She once claimed a yearly phone bill of \$60,000 and says she spends over \$500,000 a year on food and wine alone. She also is known for extensive facial surgeries performed to give her a catlike appearance.

During her marriage to art dealer Alec Wildenstein, Jocelyn reportedly began to fear her husband was losing interest in her. Because he loved cats, she began altering her face to make her appear more feline. Initially it seemed to work since it was reported that the couple was happy for a short while. But her husband finally left her for a younger woman. Judge Marilyn Diamond who presided over the divorce stipulated that Wildenstein could not use any alimony payments for further cosmetic surgery.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above news story to read. After all teens have had the opportunity to read the article, discuss it in this way:

Look at the strange stories above. What do you think makes someone go to drastic means to permanently change his or her appearance? Does wanting to be a better person always mean we should become a different person? Explain.

Who are some of your heroes and role models? How far would you go to be like them?

Being a better person means much more than having a different nose or chin! Paul told Timothy about the sort of spiritual "makeover" one needs in order to be a Christian leader.