

July 18th-24th

The Man Behind the Mask

In this lesson you will learn about three attitudes of living with a mask.

Intro: The thing with masks is that you can hide your emotions behind the mask. You can hide what is really going on in your life behind the façade of the mask. The only thing that people can see are your eyes. The enemy loves for us to stay behind the mask. He wants you to keep your struggles and challenges hidden in the dark from others. What are you hiding from? Instead of settling for pretending, let's be the kind of people who take off our masks before God and our friends. Let's be open and transparent with those closest to us so they can understand what is happening on the inside of us.

I. Isolation Keeps the Mask On

- A. Isolation keeps us away from community, away from honesty, and away from transparent, close relationships. The enemy loves to get us isolated so that he can pick us off easily. When we're in community, we can draw on the strength of those around us and have others check our blind spots. When just two believers come together, then can put 10,000 to flight (Josh 23:10). When we come into agreement, our corporate faith is much stronger together.

II. Stop Hiding Behind the Mask

- A. The masks in our lives can help us to deceive others, to hide our struggles, and to cover up any issues we may be dealing with. What are you hiding, and who are you hiding from? If you want to finally have freedom and a stable identity, you need to step out from hiding behind the mask. Face your fears and your frustrations. Confront the one who has been driving you crazy. It's time to show others the real, genuine you loving others with no pretenses (1 Pet 1:22).

III. Honesty is the best Policy

- A. Change & transformation happens when we honestly admit where we are and ask God's help to change. There is much more freedom in being honest than there is in pretending. Be honest about; your current finances, your health, your personal attitude issues, and about your relationships. We need honesty in our lives so we can grow. We move from weakness to strength as we honestly share with others our shortcomings and invite them to help us. Be honest about your present, then speak faith over your present and future circumstances (Job 22:28).

Discussion Questions

1. Are you in healthy Christian community, or are you isolated?
2. What are you hiding behind your mask/s?
3. Where do you need to be transparent in your close relationships?