



Many men try to hide and pretend they are not broken. But this only leads to more hiding, pretending, and despair—and nothing ever changes. We fear that God is almost never pleased. This study will lead us into the light between two very different underlying motives: our determination to please God or to trust him. One results in a striving that never feels it has done enough to please him. The other results in a trust that experiences his full pleasure. Our motives as Jesus followers will either keep us enslaved in our hiding or free us into God's Adventure for our lives. Let's discover the Open Road of Grace together! Ride ON!

**Stop Faking It! Take Off the Mask! – Galatians 5:1**

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable  
www.MensTable.com

**FREE TO BE A MAN**  
**TAKE THE MASK OFF AND WALK THE OPEN ROAD OF GRACE!**

June 09, 2022

**Bible Verses:** Romans 5:20, 21; Ephesians 2:8-10; I Samuel 13:6-14; James 1:22-24; I Samuel 16:21; 18:8, 9; I Corinthians 6:9-11  
**Music:** Chris Tomlin - Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-4NFvI5U9w>

**Resources:** *TrueFaced – Trust God and Others with Who You Really Are* by Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, and John Lynch.  
*The Cure: What If God Isn't Who You Think He Is and Neither Are You?* By Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, and John Lynch.  
**Video:** Amazing Grace movie trailer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6Cv5P9H9qU>

**TAKE THE MASK OFF – AFRAID TO REVEAL YOUR TRUE FACE!**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → We've lost our confidence that we will always please our audience, so we feel compelled to hide and put on a mask. "Whew! I'm glad I'm not like that guy. Imagine, lying to people about who you are! Making up stories and almost believing them yourself! That's messed up!" (I Samuel 13:6-14; James 1:22-24).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → The ancient Greeks loved their theater. All the actors held a pole that carried an enormous papier-mache' mask that portrayed their predominant nature—good or evil. These performers were not called actors, but hypocrites, literally, "one who wears a mask."
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → We are all performers, so we feel compelled to hide and put on a mask. We fear exposure because we have lost confidence that we or anyone else, God included, can help us (I Sam. 16:21, 18:8,9). We have dozens of masks, including:
  1. The "happy" mask.
  2. The "I'm better than most" mask.
  3. The "I'm very together" mask.
  4. The "I'm a victim of others" mask.
  5. The "I don't care" mask.
  6. The "I am self-sufficient" mask.
  7. The "I'm very important" mask.
  8. The "I'm competent" mask.
  9. The "I'm the expert" mask.
  10. The "I'm not hurt" mask.

**TAKE THE MASK OFF – 3 GROUPS OF MASK WEARERS!**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Men who are surrounded by nicely scrubbed people who smile broadly and shake each other's hand firmly. "Just Fine" people need to acknowledge the truth: "We are not fine!" (I Cor. 6:9-11)." Doing Just Fine" group masquerade paints a deeply dishonest caricature of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Christ came to free us of hiding pain and unresolved junk, but we choose to pretend our lives are something they are not. The risk of rejection and alienation is too great.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Men who are looking for the next new technique that promises to help change us. We go from book to book, seminar, to church hoping that we can find the answer. We read about concepts and strategies that have promised to change us, but we remain ultimately unchanged ... and we know it ... and we fear that others are beginning to know it.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → This is the "together" group, the postcard family: well-educated, well-heeled, well-groomed, well-assured, etc. We don't need help or answers; we are help and answers. Always well stocked with teaching for others, we have little need of anyone to teach us. We are right, and if only others could learn from us, they would be able to get on with their little lives.

**TAKE THE MASK OFF – GREAT NEWS!**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → When we wear a mask, we convince others that:
  1. They too must present an Idealized Self and wear a mask.
  2. New life in Christ doesn't work.
  3. Self-protection is the only hope. It is better to be unknown than to risk rejection.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → When we wear a mask, we teach others:
  1. To live in a guarded way.
  2. To live a life of comparison, envy, and jealousy.
  3. To trade vulnerability for the veneer of safety.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → The Good News ... ME TOO! Almost all of us, at some time, resort to appearances, to mask-wearing. When we admit that the old answers don't work anymore, we stop reading authors with nice-sounding platitudes and slogans, and we become hungry for books that don't deny pain or tell you to keep trying what hasn't worked before." *Father, come reveal to me my true face, reflecting yours.*" See Romans 5:20, 21 and Ephesians 2:8-10.

**ACTION: Journal This!**

1. What do you fear someone will discover about you that would cause shame or rejection?
2. What is the mask you see others wearing?
3. Why do you think mask wearing is even more pronounced in Christians than in those still seeking Christ?

**“Amazing Grace(My Chains Are Gone)” by Chris Tomlin**

<p>Amazing grace How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me I once was lost, but now I'm found Was blind, but now I see 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed</p>	<p>My chains are gone I've been set free My God, my Savior has ransomed me And like a flood His mercy reigns Unending love, amazing grace The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures</p>	<p>My chains are gone I've been set free My God, my Savior has ransomed me And like a flood His mercy reigns Unending love, amazing grace The earth shall soon dissolve like snow The sun forbear to shine But God, Who called me here below, Will be forever mine. Will be forever mine. You are forever mine</p>
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**Bible Verses – The Message**

<p><b>Romans 5:20, 21:</b> 20 All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn't, and doesn't, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call <i>grace</i>. When it's sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. 21 All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that's the end of it. Grace, because God is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life—a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.</p> <p><b>Ephesians 2:8-10:</b> 8 Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! 9 We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! 10 No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.</p> <p><b>I Samuel 13:6-14:</b> 6-7 When the Israelites saw that they were way outnumbered and in deep trouble, they ran for cover, hiding in caves and pits, ravines and brambles and cisterns—wherever. They retreated across the Jordan River, refugees fleeing to the country of Gad and Gilead. But Saul held his ground in Gilgal, his soldiers still with him but scared to death. 8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel. Samuel failed to show up at Gilgal, and the soldiers were slipping away, right and left. 9-10 So Saul took charge: "Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings!" He went ahead and sacrificed the burnt offering. No sooner had he done it than Samuel showed up! Saul greeted him. 11-12 Samuel said, "What on earth are you doing?" Saul answered, "When I saw I was losing my army from under me, and that you hadn't come when you said you would, and that the Philistines were poised at Micmash, I said, 'The Philistines are about to come down on me in Gilgal, and I haven't yet come before God asking for his help.' So I took things into my own hands, and sacrificed the burnt offering." 13-14 "That was a fool thing to do," Samuel said to Saul. "If you had kept the appointment that your God commanded, by now God would have set a firm and lasting foundation under your kingly rule over Israel. As it is, your kingly rule is already falling to pieces. God is out looking for your replacement right now. This time he'll do the choosing. When he finds him, he'll appoint him leader of his people. And all because you didn't keep your appointment with God!"</p>	<p><b>James 1:22-24:</b> 22-24 Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.</p> <p><b>I Samuel 16:21:</b> 18:8, 9: 20-21 Jesse took a donkey, loaded it with a couple of loaves of bread, a flask of wine, and a young goat, and sent his son David with it to Saul. David came to Saul and stood before him. Saul liked him immediately and made him his right-hand man. 6-9 As they returned home, after David had killed the Philistine, the women poured out of all the villages of Israel singing and dancing, welcoming King Saul with tambourines, festive songs, and lutes. In playful frolic the women sang, Saul kills by the thousand, David by the ten thousand! This made Saul angry—very angry. He took it as a personal insult. He said, "They credit David with 'ten thousands' and me with only 'thousands.' Before you know it they'll be giving him the kingdom!" From that moment on, Saul kept his eye on David.</p> <p><b>I Corinthians 6:9-11:</b> 9-11 Don't you realize that this is not the way to live? Unjust people who don't care about God will not be joining in his kingdom. Those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex, use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don't qualify as citizens in God's kingdom. A number of you know from experience what I'm talking about, for not so long ago you were on that list. Since then, you've been cleaned up and given a fresh start by Jesus, our Master, our Messiah, and by our God present in us, the Spirit.</p>
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