



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!

THE SAD JOURNEY OF HIDING!

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 23, 2022

<p>Bible Verses: Romans 5:20, 21: Ephesians 2:8-10: Romans 2:14-16: Psalm 51:1-14. Music: A Story of Amazing Grace - Chris Tomlin https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCsGQFTSYNA</p>	<p>Resources: <i>TrueFaced – Trust God and Others with Who You Really Are</i> by Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, and John Lynch. <i>The Cure: What If God Isn't Who You Think He Is and Neither Are You?</i> By Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, and John Lynch. Video: William Wilberforce finds God - movie Amazing Grace https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OB-GEUmgKM8</p>
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TAKE THE MASK OFF – UNRESOLVED SIN KILLS THE HEART!

- _____ → We need to see “where we are” and “how we got there.” We need to see ourselves in our story, to see what causes and nurtures the responses that trip us up. We must see what causes and nurtures the responses that trip us up. We must see that our controlling behavior isn’t a response to something happening in the present. It was triggered by some sin in the past that never got resolved. If we can begin to understand the phases of unresolved sin and discover what is happening to us, we may no longer react to life like lemmings heading for a cliff.
- _____ → Three-phase process:
Act of Sin → Involuntary Response → Inevitable Effect

Someone sins against us or we sin against someone else, and that act of sin evokes within us an involuntary response (Romans 2:15). We don’t have to work at producing these responses. They are automatic. If we do the sinning, our involuntary response is called guilt (Psalm 51:3-14). If someone else sins against us, our involuntary response is called hurt (Psalm 31:12; 41:7-10; 52:2-4). God designed these two responses to tell us that something wrong has happened—something just got fractured and needs healing. Our involuntary responses will progress to inevitable effects, unleashing a new depth of pain, inner turmoil, and mask-wearing. Hope begins by understanding the effect of guilt and hurt and applying God’s resources and power to resolve that sin.

TAKE THE MASK OFF – THE EFFECTS OF UNRESOLVED SIN!

- _____ → When we trust our own ideas about how to handle our guilt or hurt, we allow something much worse to be released in us. Suddenly, our guilt or hurt morphs into half a dozen or more ugly inevitable effects. Something under our own roof begins to destroy us! By not dealing with our guilt and hurt, we invite harm and make themselves right at home.
- The effects of unresolved sin—guilt and hurt—leads us down a path of destructive, self-protective experiences that produces any number of inevitable effects.
 - _____ = Guilt produces shame when I fail to acknowledge what I have done wrong. Hurt produces shame in the form of feeling demeaned and humiliated.
 - _____ = We can blame others because we feel shame, or we can feel shame because of blame.
 - _____ = Guilt creates a barrier in relationships. Hurt convinces us that others cannot be trusted.
 - _____ = Prevents us from facing the truth about ourselves. If we are the offender, it allows us to deny that we’ve done anything wrong. If we are the offended, it allows us to deny that the sin done to us has affected us.
 - _____ = Brings a heroic sense of purpose to our guilt or our hurt. It gives us energy, explosive, and unpredictable energy. “Somebody’s gonna pay!” It allows us to play the victim or demand justice. It prevents the truth from being known or embraced.

ACTION: Journal This!

- What guilt do you carry that needs to be faced?
- How have you been hurt that continues to affect you?
- What resources does the Gospel offer for your own guilt and the hurt caused by others?

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

<p align="center">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 align="center">Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home. The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures; He will my Shield and Portion be, As long as life endures. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease,</p>	<p align="center">I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine; But God, who called me here below, Will be forever mine. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.</p>
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Bible Verses – The Message

<p>Romans 5:20, 21: 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>Ephesians 2:8-10: 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>Romans 2:14-16: 14 When outsiders who have never heard of God's law follow it more or less by instinct, they confirm its truth by their obedience. 15 They show that God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within them that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong. 16 Their</p>	<p>response to God's yes and no will become public knowledge on the day God makes his final decision about every man and woman. The Message from God that I proclaim through Jesus Christ takes into account all these differences.</p> <p>Psalm 51:1-14: 1 Generous in love - God, give grace! Huge in mercy - wipe out my bad record. 2 Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry. 3 I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down. 4 You're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil. You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair. 5 I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born. 6 What you're after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life. 7 Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life. 8 Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing. 9 Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health. 10 God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. 11 Don't throw me out with the trash, or fail to breathe holiness in me. 12 Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails! 13 Give me a job teaching rebels your ways so the lost can find their way home. 14 Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God, and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways.</p>
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