



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!

LIFE BEHIND THE MASK – PART 1

Galatians 5:1 Romans 5:20, 21 Ephesians 2:8-10

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

FREE TO BE A MAN

June 30, 2022

TAKE THE MASK OFF AND WALK THE OPEN ROAD OF GRACE!

<p>Bible Verses: Romans 5:20, 21; Ephesians 2:8-10; Luke 18:9-14; Deuteronomy 5:8-10; Psalm 51:3</p> <p>Music: Alan Jackson - Amazing Grace https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogxLNlgKM8c</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 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLU182rjOpA</p>
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TAKE THE MASK OFF – SEEING OURSELVES BEHIND THE MASK!

When we don't access God's remedy to deal with sin, those *ugly destructive effects* join forces inside us and enslave us. Let's look at 6 damaging behaviors we engage in when the inevitable effects join forces inside us.

1. _____ = Guilt produces shame when I fail to acknowledge what I have done wrong. Hurt produces shame in the form of feeling demeaned and humiliated.
2. _____ = We can blame others because we feel shame or we can feel shame because of blame.
3. _____ = Guilt creates a barrier in relationships. Hurt convinces us that others cannot be trusted.
4. _____ = 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.
5. _____ = 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.

TAKE THE MASK OFF – SEEING OURSELVES BEHIND THE MASK!

SIX INEVITABLE EFFECTS:

1. _____ → We become highly sensitive to our own sin and judge the sin of others.
2. _____ → We lose our objectivity in a crisis and we become the issue.
3. _____ → We hide our sinful behavior and become vulnerable to more sin.
4. _____ → We are unable to be loved or to love.
5. _____ → We become susceptible to wrong life choices.
6. _____ → We attempt to control others.

TAKE THE MASK OFF – INEVITABLE EFFECTS OF NOT DEALING WITH SIN!

1. _____ → We become highly sensitive to our own sin and judge the sin of others. (Luke 18:9-14). When this inevitable effect plays itself out in our lives, our sensitivity to our own sin then the sins of others causes us to create legalistic and controlling environments. When this is true in families, this damaging pattern can be passed on from generation to generation. (Deut. 5:8-10).
2. _____ → We lose our objectivity in a crisis and we become the issue. When we put on a mask due to unresolved sin, we lose our objectivity in a crisis. Everything revolves around this subjective, distorted, and idealized picture we now have of ourselves. We react out of that warped self-portrait. We move from an ability to see the problem clearly to becoming the problem. Without the power of grace to deal with sin, we will ruin the spirit and violate the soul of those we claim to love and are responsible to love.
3. _____ → We hide our sinful behavior and become vulnerable to more sin. No matter how deep we try to bury it, unresolved sin doesn't die. It is always alive and well, inflaming more sin. Hiding creates a double whammy: It prevents us from maturing, and it makes us vulnerable to even more sin. The degree to which we wear a mask in our key relationships is the degree to which our character development will be thwarted. Environments without grace retain and multiply unresolved sin issues. (Psalm 51:3). The more influence we have, the more we are tempted to hide our true self for fear we will lose that influence. Hiding drains us. When we hide, we can never rest.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. Would others who know you say you are judgmental? Do you tend to be hard on yourself or others?
2. Do you tend to lose your objectivity in a crisis? Are you more likely to become angry or reactive under stress?
3. In your family, relationships, church, or work, is the penalty for disclosing what is true about you the same as getting caught? If so, how is that thwarting your character development?

“Amazing Grace” by Alan Jackson

<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>Luke 18:9-14 - 9 He told his next story to some who were complacently pleased with themselves over their moral performance and looked down their noses at the common people: 10 "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax man. 11 The Pharisee posed and prayed like this: 'Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people -</p>	<p>robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. 12 I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.' 13 "Meanwhile the tax man, slumped in the shadows, his face in his hands, not daring to look up, said, 'God, give mercy. Forgive me, a sinner.'" 14 Jesus commented, "This tax man, not the other, went home made right with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air, you're going to end up flat on your face, but if you're content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself."</p> <p>Deuteronomy 5:8-10 - 8 No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. 9 Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I am God, your God, and I'm a most jealous God. I hold parents responsible for any sins they pass on to their children to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation. 10 But I'm lovingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.</p> <p>Psalm 51:3 - 3 I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down.</p>
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