



FREE TO BE A MAN

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

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!

GRACE WORKS

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

TAKE THE MASK OFF – GRACE WORKS

1. **TRUTH** → These 5 truths of grace give us lasting answers for resolving our sin issues (I Peter 5:5,6):
 1. Humility attracts grace.
 2. Grace changes my life focus.
 3. Grace lets God handle sin.
 4. Grace melts masks.
 5. Grace changes how we treat each other and our sin issues.
2. **GRACE** → We define humility as trusting God and others with me. Therefore, if a community lacks grace, that community is low on trust. Pride shuts down grace. The environment of grace provides me with truth, acceptance, healing, safety, perspective, freedom, and power that I did not before know. These realities are foundational to resolving my sin issues (II Cor. 12:9,10).

TAKE THE MASK OFF – GRACE WORKS

3. **WHO AM I?** → Trusting who God says I am lays the foundation for maturity. How I view myself is the most revealing commentary of my theology. Striving leaves us dysfunctional and immature because it creates hiddenness. Grace creates authenticity. Authenticity melts masks (Heb. 4:16; John 1:14-18).
4. **FREEDOM** → Safety, protection, and love characterize relationships in The Room of Grace, rather than mistrust, deceit, and guardedness. We stand in front of each other, true-faced. We need to see one another as saints who sin, rather than as sinners who are saved (John 13:34,35).
5. **MATURITY** → God's final objective for us is not resolving sin or "getting well." God's ultimate goal is maturing us into who he says we are and releasing us into the dreams he designed for us before the world began. God carefully designed his "influence system" so that we would have to influence far more of who we are than what we do (I Tim. 3:1-7).

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What is the story of your own deepest trauma and sadness from guilt or hurt?
2. Who are you in God's eyes?
3. What sin issue holds you back from your journey of maturity?

