

Remnant Life Church  
June 14, 2015  
**Recognizing the Truth**  
**Part IV**  
**The Masks We Wear**

- Masks are worn to hide an identity
  - Some are good, some are bad
    1. The hero – The Lone Ranger; Batman; Superman’s glasses?!?
    2. The villain – Michael Myers (Halloween); every bad guy in a movie wanting to rob a convenience store (Raising Arizona – Nick Cage)
- We also think of dressing up as kids for Halloween (before it became so demonically influenced) and an occasional masquerade ball.
- Christians too like so many other people also wear masks
  - They are our protection from a world that revels in pain and misery
  - They allow us to guard our true feelings
  - They hide hurt, bitterness, unforgiveness, anger, and shame
- We were never intended to ever wear a mask.
  - Why?
  - Because a mask has one purpose – to present a deceptive face
  - Deception is a lie
  - Who is the Father of Lies?
- God never wants us to lie and never condones it in any way (white lie...)
- The Holy Spirit will help us identify the masks we wear and remove them through the Word of God.
  1. The Mask of Dependency on Anything Other than Jesus Christ
    - + Depending on the past; the way we have always done things; tradition
    - a. 7 deadly words of the church “We’ve never/always done it that way before.”
    - b. God is God of variety – few things done in the Bible exactly the same way
    - + **Mark 7:6-8** – “*‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.*”
    - + Ask God to help you remove any dependency on tradition, rules, and regulations
  2. The Mask of Yielding to Culture
    - + Hollywood and famous people are rising to the places of dictating what is right/wrong, what is accepted/rejected, and what we should all accept as a normal part of life

+ **John 9:16** - *Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.*

+ Ask God to help you be willing to renounce the cultural thinking that comes against the Word of God

3. The Mask of Power, Position, and Pride

+ No position achieved by a Christian is by his/her own doing

+ Nothing will kill a ministry faster than for the leadership to lose their humility

+ Once pride enters the anointing of God will be removed – maybe not immediately but certainly in time

+ **1 Peter 5:6** – *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time."*

+ Resist the temptation to use any position or power you have to manipulate others to your gain

4. The Mask of Super-Spirituality

+ So heavenly minded they are no earthly good

+ We trust and believe in God for His supernatural intervention at His desire but we must live in our world with wisdom and common sense

+ **Luke 16:15** – *"You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."*

+ Ask God to show you how to receive loving correction and keep you from entering into a Pharisaical spirituality.

5. The Mask of Frenetic Activity

+ The insistence of a person to keep their life as busy as possible and involved with others is often because they cannot stand to look directly at their own

+ **Gal 2:17** – *If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners.*

+ To seek or make our efforts the pursuit of God's love only exposes more and more our sinfulness

+ Our satisfaction in life should not be in what we do, how much we accomplish, what we have, how important we are to other people, or our perceived importance in their lives.

+ Our satisfaction needs to come from obeying His will in our lives and only being and doing what He leads us to do.

+ Anything else is falls into Solomon's declaration, *"Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."* (**Eccl. 1:2**)

• First five masks

1. Dependency on anything other than Jesus
2. Yielding to the sway of culture
3. Power, Position, and Pride
4. Super-spirituality
5. Frenetic Activity