

Remnant Life Church
June 21, 2015
Recognizing the Truth
Part V
The Masks We Wear
(Conlusion)
2 Corinthians 11:12-15

- Masks are worn to hide an identity
 - Dependency (tradition, familiarity, etc...) anything other than Jesus
 - Conformity to cultural control of right and wrong
 - Power, position, and pride
 - Super spirituality
 - Frenetic activity
 - This morning we look at another set of masks that are easily worn
 - A mask does not make you a bad person or someone who necessarily needs to be “fixed”
 - When revealed, however, it should cause you to honestly examine your life and see what it is that God desires to do in your life that the masks might prevent
1. The Mask of Intellectualism
 - This mask is at the very foundation of atheism and every religion that promotes man to be equal with or over God
 - The intellect of man is created and given by God not what created God
 - *Col. 2:2-4 - My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.*
 - Paul is warning the people in the church of Colossae not to be governed by their intellects
 - Paul Harvey – “If I Were The Devil” – written in 1965
 2. The Mask of Legalism
 - This is not about deciding whether we will or will not obey the laws of the land
 - It is not about following the Word of God
 - It is about replacing the grace and mercy of God with a belief that we can somehow qualify for heaven by obeying and keeping the law without the acknowledging our sinfulness and need for God’s forgiveness
 - *Col 2:20-3:2 ~ Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they*

lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence. Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

- a. Why is this not the way we should live? Self-Imposed worship – focus is inward not upward
- b. False humility – on the outside it appears one way (mask) inside it is prideful
- c. Harsh treatment of the body - God does not despise our bodies; He created them
- d. Lacking in value to restrain the desires of the flesh – they hold no true lasting purpose.

3. The Mask of Popularity

- The opportunity to please people will always be presented to you
- This might be the first mask that we put on
- *Luke 6:26 - Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.*
- This is a great temptation that we first, must be aware of and, second, must fight to avoid falling into
- This does not mean that we do show love to everyone in our lives
- We must not allow our desire to be accepted and liked to dictate how we live our lives

4. The Mask of Emotional Dramatics

- Similar to the mask of frenetic activity
- Some people actually thrive in this environment
 - It enables them to ignore their own lives
 - It puts the focus on the activity rather than the causes
 - Many times they created the situation so that they receive a lot of attention from it
 - There are even times that all the drama masks a half-hearted commitment to the things that are important
- *Psalms 46:10 – Be still and know that I am God*

5. The Mask of Over Rationalism

- This often is used with intellectualism and legalism
- It is another mask that we wear from the altar of the mind
- *I Cor 2:4-5 - My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.*
- This is one of the greatest sowers of doubt in people's minds
 - If I can't fit it into the box of my understanding then it cannot be true
 - We must guard against the reliance on our human wisdom and instead hold to our faith that comes through the Holy Spirit into our lives

- All of these masks are held within the **container of deception**
 - **2 Cor 11:3** - *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
 - This is what prevents us from being able to deal with the masks that we may have been wearing for years
 - We can't see and don't believe they are there because we are deceived
 - Pride keeps us from seeing them
- Again, these masks do not necessarily mean that satan has won in our lives
- Like all of his plans we need to be aware and on guard
- The all share one thing in common – they take our minds off of God and put them on ourselves
- **1 Peter 5:8** - *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
- He does not have to be successful or victorious over us
- God has given us the ability to see in the spirit these masks and the strength, through Him, to keep them from becoming a part of our lives
- Be aware and guard against the Masks of...
 1. Dependency
 2. Cultural morality
 3. Power, position, and pride
 4. Super spirituality
 5. Frenetic activity
 6. Intellectualism
 7. Legalism
 8. Popularity
 9. Emotional dramatics
 10. Over rationalism