



MASQUERADE

Experience Life. For Real.

Discussion Notes Oct. 24, 2010

Masquerade series – Part 4: Unmasking our Dark Side

Review it

A lot of us are living two lives and we have a face for each of them: outwardly we display our got-it-together face, which masks an inner private life that's often filled with pain. In this series we'll learn to stop the masquerade and get help- the help that comes when we're honest and vulnerable with our loving, healing God.

Discuss It

1. First let's check up on the "Act on It" portion of last week's small group study. As Pastor Chris said, "stressed" spelled backwards is "desserts"! So, we were to let feelings of stress be a trigger for us to do something "sweet" –either for ourselves or for someone else. Who can share what happened when they intentionally turned stress inside out.
2. Part of our stress may stem from our efforts to mask and protect a hidden side of our personality—what Pastor Chris called our "dark side." Describe a time when you harbored one of these fears...
 - If my boss knew ____, I'd be fired.
 - If my spouse knew ____, he/she would leave.
 - If my teacher knew ____, I'd be suspended.
 - If my friends knew ____, they'd ridicule me.

How were you finally able to unmask the hidden sin? What was the outcome?

3. What was your reaction to Pastor Chris' assertion: "God doesn't want us to be happy; He wants us to be holy." How will this realization alter your actions this week, with regard to your work life or relationships?
4. Share a time when you believed you were "immune" to sin in a particular area, when you let down your guard down or failed to take precautions from exposure. What was the result?
5. Pastor Chris listed several precautions he takes to minimize his exposure to temptation (he never travels alone, keeps strong filters on the internet, etc.)

Brainstorm several precautions you have taken or will commit to take, to minimize your personal triggers to sin.

Think on It

Pastor Chris shared five of the consequences of sexual sin in his personal life (grieving his Lord and Savior, wasting 27 years of ministry, undermining the work of other pastors and leaders, hurting his precious wife and children, and facing the judgment of God as a fallen leader). This week, write an exhaustive list of consequences of sin in your own life, and review them during your quiet time every day.

Act on It

Pastor Chris urged each of us to get in a relationship where we can be accountable to another person who will consistently ask us “the tough questions.” This week, if you haven’t already, find an accountability partner and be willing to do the same for someone else. Write down the tough questions that they should pose to you regularly and commit to always giving an honest response.