



MASQUERADE

Experience Life. For Real.

Discussion Notes October 31, 2010

Masquerade Series – Part 5: Unmasking My Stuff

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. There are 2,000 scriptures in the Bible that refer to finances and our possessions. With all of these scriptures to guide us, why do you think most of us find ourselves distressed, discontented, disconnected, or distracted?
2. In our lifetime all of us have felt one of these four things about our financial situation. Which of these have applied to you in a situation before? Are you currently experiencing one of these right now? As a group, discuss how you can support one another through this time.
3. [Read Proverbs 23:4] It is hard sometimes to discern what is wise. How can we, as Christians, better discern how the Lord wants us to spend our finances, our time, our resources, our lives?
4. One profound truth that all of us need to hold on to is that God owns it all. When we understand that concept, the pressure to hold on to our things goes away. Describe a time in your life when you completely surrendered it all to the Lord. Did you feel joy, peace, comfort, hope? What were the steps you took to get to the place of surrendering?
5. Pastor Chris redefined the word stewardship. It is not about giving more, but managing better what you have been given. What areas of your life can you be a better steward? Have you fully surrendered these areas to the Lord? What are some steps you can take to help you be a better steward of all areas, not just your finances?

Think on It

In our finances, we often think that the amount takes precedent over the order. When really it is all about the heart behind what we do. The Lord cares more about the order than how much we do or don't give. Are your finances in the right order? Does the Lord get the first? With the beginning of the month starting begin praying, planning, and creating ways to put the Lord first. Examine all the areas of your life, not just your finances.

Act on It

The last thing Pastor Chris said today was that heaven, not earth is our goal. This week, examine how you are spending your finances, time, etc. and see if they are Kingdom focused. If you find that your life exists mainly to support the day to day activities, then pray and ask the Lord to help reorder your life. Start with something small and then begin building a plan to help your life be Eternity focused.