



MASQUERADE

Experience Life. For Real.

Discussion Notes November 7, 2010

Masquerade series – Part 6: Unmasking our Relationships

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. Take turns sharing your reaction to Dr. Parrott's assertion: "If you try to build intimacy with another person before you have done the work of getting whole on your own, all your relationship become an attempt to complete yourself"?
2. Popular culture would have us searching for the one "soulmate" who could "complete us," just as Jerry Maguire did. Share a time when you did that, and the results. How did you discover that you were still, in fact, *incomplete*? In your "compulsion for completion," what did you do to fill the empty spaces?
3. Share a time when you were in an "A-frame relationship," where each of you leaned solely on each other, until one person stumbled and you both toppled. What was the result? What did you learn from the experience?
4. Dr. Parrott says that we need to get a "lock on" three things to get healthy spiritually: profound significance, unswerving authenticity and self-giving love. Since these stages build upon one another, where would you place yourself?
5. The best-selling nonfiction book of all time, *The Purpose-Driven Life*, posed the question: *Why on earth am I here?* So, do you know why? Can you state it simply to the group? If the path you're on does not line up with God's plan for your life, what will you do to reconcile the two?

Think on It

Would you say you have the compulsion for completion? Look up verses on God's profound love and read them out loud each day this week. Do you have a "disease to please?" Find verses like Jeremiah 29:11 that affirm God's purpose and plans for us. Do you lack self-giving love? Meditate on Ephesians 4: 2-3 and find similar Scriptures on living selflessly for others

Act on It

Dr. Parrott likened self-giving love with the practice of walking an extra mile for someone else. Several times this week, make a conscious decision to do exactly that.