

October 22, 2020
Hunkered Down Homilies
“Masks”



Friends,

We have certainly heard a lot of conversation about masks lately. Facial coverings have become a part of our “new normal” as we try to slow the spread of Covid-19. And, truthfully, for the first time in my life, seeing someone wearing a mask eases my anxiety.

I’ve always been a little leery around folks who wear masks. Maybe it was watching too much Gunsmoke and Wyatt Earp as a kid where the bad guys always wore masks. (The Lone Ranger and Zorro created a lot of ambivalent feelings for me!) And Halloween really threw me for a loop.

It just seems that when someone is wearing a mask you don’t really know who it is or what they are up to. Sometimes the masks we wear have nothing to do with external materials. We can fix a deceiving smile that hides the sadness in our hearts. We can adopt an attitude of piety that contradicts the moral struggles we wrestle with. We can use words as weapons, so no one suspects how insecure we truly are about life.

Church people seem to be especially adept at these self-contrived masks. We secretly fear that if the good folks at 5th and Market truly knew us, they wouldn’t like us. So, we hide what is inside.

By hiding our true selves, we miss out on the beauty of grace and the comfort of unconditional love. Paul says this: “Our faces, then, are not covered. We all show the Lord’s glory, and we are being changed to be like Him.” (2 Corinthians 3:18 NCV)

When we take off our masks before the Lord and before each other, God can begin to heal our brokenness and shape our personalities.

On the other hand, we get stuck with the things we hide away.

Now that’s scary!



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