

K-GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE #5

SERIES – Extreme Makeover: *How Grace Remodels Our Lives*

MESSAGE – “Unmasking the Pharisee”

PASSAGE – Romans 2:12-24

Okay, now let's review a bit. Paul uses terminology that sounds like he is teaching that we are saved by our obedience to the law in verses 12-16. However, he teaches elsewhere very clearly that we are not saved by our obedience to the law, but through grace in Jesus' keeping the law for us and paying down the debt for our sin. So... quickly now, what role do works play in the life of the Christian? Let's be really clear here and then move on to talking about masks.

McKay's grandmother used to say, "Wait just a minute, I'm still putting on my face." What kinds of faces do we put on? What kinds of masks do we wear?

What images did Jesus use to describe the Pharisees' religious/moral hypocrisy (see Matthew 23:1-3, 25-28, and then go back and read verse 5)?

Probing questions to ask to get to the heart of why I wear masks:

- What are my wounds? How is a mask covering it up?
- What are the sins I want to cover? How is a mask covering it up?
- What are my failures that I am ashamed of? How is a mask covering it up?
- What are my fears that I do not want revealed? How is a mask covering it up?

McKay talked about his own fear of exposure — of being found out, or being known. Anybody want to share about areas in your life where you have worn a mask to cover up some fear, failure, wound or sin? Note to others: do not judge anyone or try to fix anyone. A K-Group is to be a safe place to be real. This "realness" may take time to develop as we get more comfortable living in the gospel. At this point, maybe you can share a fear or wound rather than a heinous, scandalous sin -- just learn how to talk about the reasons for our masks.

McKay said that if we are able to take off our masks, we will experience freedom and power (2 Cor. 12:9). How do we take off our masks? What does the gospel invite us to do?

In what ways can you imagine your life being different by having the righteousness of Jesus as your new cover up, rather than the fig leaf cover up of [put your fig leaf/mask here]?