



“Masks And The Barnacles Behind Them”

Christianity teaches that we are born with a broken human nature. In this week’s message we look at what happens in our hearts, in our relationships, and in our faith when we wear masks in order to self preserve the things we don’t want God or others to see.

1. Discuss the idea that there is something about sin that makes us want to hide from others and God. What do you think this is?
2. Have you ever felt safe enough to be fully known and loved by God and others? If so, share how this freedom has impacted your life. If not, what experience led you to feel unsafe.

Read Genesis 3:7-10

3. Why do you think shame is what surfaces when you mess up? In what ways has shame led you to mask your brokenness with God and others?
4. In your experience do you seek perfection in order to mask your broken human nature? What do you think will happen if you were to stop striving for perfection?

1 John 1:7 says: “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

5. What would it mean in your life and relationships if your initial response to sin or hurt wasn’t to put on a mask but a signal that something is stuck in your heart that needs to be healed by God’s grace?

6. Have you ever experienced the room of grace where you don't have to wear masks but can let others see the real you? If not, do you fear rejection if you were to show the real you?

7. If you could rest in the truth that you were fully known and fully loved, how would that impact your faith and relationships?

8. Would you consider taking a risk to be known by God first and then with someone who lives in the room of grace?

In the book "The Cure" it asks this question: "What if there was a place so safe that the worst of me could be known, and I would discover that I would not be loved less but more for the telling of it?" The room of grace is the most life giving and freeing place to live. When you allow God's healing light in to expose the hidden places of your heart it changes your life, faith, and relationships. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, sin no longer defines you, grace does!

