

Why Christians Don't Wear Masks?

Matthew 6:1–8; 16–18

What Does The Bible Say?

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 6:1 NLT)

2 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:2–4 NLT)

Don't Give Seeking the Praise of Others (6:1-3).

**Do Give Seeking the Pleasure of Your Heavenly Father
(6:1,4)**

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. (Matthew 6:5 NLT)

Pray Sincerely to Your Heavenly Father.

6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:6 NLT)

Pray Secretly to Your Heavenly Father.

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many

words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (Matthew 6:7–8 NLT)

Pray Specifically to Your Heavenly Father.

16 “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. (Matthew 6:16 NLT)

Don’t Draw Attention to Yourself When You Fast.

17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,
18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:17–18 NLT)

Just Act Normal When You Fast.

How Can You Obey?

Seek your reward from God, not from people.

God hates hypocrisy but cherishes an authentic personal relationship with His children.

Additional Notes:

If you want to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

Christianity is about more than attending church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each learner

enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it.

As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not mere decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and allow them to respond.

If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ-followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

Question 1 of 4

What is a hypocrite? How can you spot one?

Question 2 of 4

Regarding giving, is your motive less important, equally important, or more important than the act itself? Why?

Question 3 of 4

How can you know when you are acting to be seen by others and when you are letting your light shine before others?

Question 4 of 4

Of the three disciplines (giving, prayer, and fasting), which is easiest for you to do? Which is most difficult? How can you use your strongest discipline to help you grow in the one you find most difficult?