



Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM

7:00 PM

www.collinsvillecoc.org

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

Vol. 46 No. 44

Collinsville Church of Christ

October 31, 2018

Halloween Is Not the Only Time We Wear Masks

Today is Halloween and many children and adults will dress up as their favorite cartoon characters, movie characters, or scary monsters. Although Halloween is a time to dress up and be someone else, many Christians wear a mask all the time trying to cover up who we really are. What does the Bible say about wearing masks?

The word hypocrite in the New Testament is defined as “an actor under an assumed character, a stage player, a dissembler.” It can also be defined as “one acting under a feigned part, deceit, dissimulation.” The definition paints the picture of one wearing a mask and pretending to be something or someone that one is not for the purpose of deceiving.

As we serve God, He wants us to be genuine and sincere. Why do Christians sometimes wear spiritual masks?

1. We do not want others to know that our daily lives are not up to the standard of the gospel. People who are not living righteous lives tend to go overcompensate by going overboard at the local church, yet their lives are not up to the standard of the gospel.
2. We do not want others to know we lack Biblical knowledge. When we do not know the Bible as well as we should, we incorporate things we do know, like worldliness, denominationalism, and what is popular. God's word stands alone and doesn't need any outside help.
3. We do not like who we are. As children of God we are sanctified, purified, and holy before God. Many times, since we do not live in that manner, we must pretend so others

can think we are sanctified, purified, and holy before God.

How do we remove the masks? We need to be open and honest with ourselves. We need to examine ourselves spiritually to see where we are according to God's standard. If we do not measure up, we need to put in the work to bring our lives up to the standard of the gospel. More study, more prayer, more training and instruction from the word will help us remove the masks. Only God's word will help us become the people we really need to be. We can either go through life pretending, which can become burdensome and tiresome because it is not genuine, or we can look into the word of God and begin conforming our lives to it so we can be genuine, pure, and sincere. **-K.A. Pugh**

You might consider what talents God has given you. As you do so, consider what you are doing with those talents. Hopefully they are being used for more than mere show.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22 ESV

Make every effort today and every day to use your talents to the glory of God. Don't just flex your muscles. TLM

*Collinsville Church of Christ
1400 Troy Road
Collinsville, IL 62234
Phone: (618) 667-6708
Email: collinsvillecoc@att.net*