

Will the Real Church Goer Please Stand Up!



- Masquerade?
- Our society is all about reality
- Reality TV; everyone talks about being themselves
- Acts 2:42- Devoted to teaching, *fellowship*, breaking of bread and prayer

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

■ **12** Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, 13 and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. 14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. 15 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. (2 Cor. 3:12)

- **What is this hope?**
 - A hope in the new covenant which versus 3:4-6 (our adequacy comes from God)
 - A hope that success does not depend any longer according to the worlds standards
- **Boldness!**
 - Root meaning is openness
 - Becomes right out front, out in the open, with nothing to hide, transparent.

The Contrast 3:13-14

- Not like Moses....
- ...who used to put a veil over his face
 - Ex. 34:34-35
- Why?
 - Paul's answer: Moses was afraid.
- Afraid of what?
 - Afraid that the Israelites would see that the glory had faded. The mark of his privilege and status before God was disappearing, and Moses did not want anyone to know it.
- So what did Moses do?
 - He hid the fact of his faded glory behind a facade, a veil.

Same Façade Today

- Same façade (veil) see in Israelites
- What did the veil do on Moses face?
 - It hid the end of the fading glory, the terrible end of self-effort, the death that would result.
- Israelites did not see that the end of all their self efforts to try to live a righteous life by their own resources would result in:
 - Death, condemnation, and waste
 - Emptiness and a total sense of futility and waste.

What are veils?

- **False Fronts**
 - An image or front we present to others, and behind which we hide our real selves.
 - Always a form of pride and hypocrisy
 - We don't want people to see our fading glory.
- If we wear are veils long enough we are in great danger of beginning to believe that we are the kind of people we want everyone to think we are.

Which Mask are you Wearing?

- **Self Righteous**
- **Sensitive or Touchy**
- **Two Faced**
- **Remote**
 - The natural life, the flesh, the old way of living, likes nothing better than to hide or disguise itself.
 - We all tend to fear rejection
 - The satanic lie is that in order to be liked or accepted we must appear capable or successful.

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Cor. 3:16-17

- **How can these veil's be removed?**
 - Only in turning to Christ! (Heb. 12:1-2)
 - "Not only do we not know God apart from Jesus Christ, we do not even know ourselves.
Blaise Pascal
- **Now when we do this what happens?**
 - Sense of freedom
 - The person who is free is one who does not have any reputation to defend, no image to hide behind, nothing to preserve about themselves.

- **Who is doing the work?**
 - THE SPIRIT
 - "for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." (3:18)
 - It is the work of the Spirit to remove the veil
- **How does the Spirit work?**
 - The work of the Spirit is to help us to see how futile our efforts are at trying to please God.
 - The Spirit reveals the meaning of the veil
- **There is another way!**
 - Accepting what Christ has given you.
 - As long as you are trying hard, you never can lay hold of what he is ready to give.

And we all, with unveiled face, (having come to the end, having accepted the fact that we cannot make it before God or man by pretense, by image, or by trying to look good. When we come to that place we are) **beholding the glory of the Lord,** (and we) **are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.** 2 Corinthians 3:18