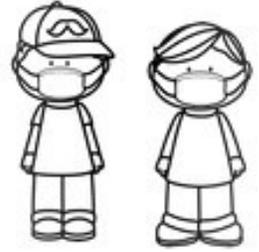


A MASK?

Would Jesus wear a mask? Today, because of COVID-19, we see people everywhere wearing masks. They do this to protect others and themselves from



contracting the coronavirus. There may be some animosity when a business or place where people gather requires or encourages you to wear a mask. However, there are new circumstances to consider for social interaction today...yet, in the past...

First, let's define "mask." A "mask" wearer in a biblical context would be a pretender, a hypocrite, or an actor. Second, you and I are covering our face with something else...yes, it's a mask, but we've chosen to wear a physical mask in order to be safe from sharing unwanted germs!

In Matthew 7:5 and Luke 6:42, we read about the definition of hypocrisy. It's about judging others concerning a "speck" of something when you have a "plank" problem of your own. What are some examples of hypocrisy? Some have to do with "righteous" actions...such as giving, prayer, and fasting.

Matthew 6:2 tells us, when giving "do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do..." Giving isn't about seeking praise from others when you do a good deed. Doing good deeds just so others can see them is truly not what God desires. God sees. When we wait until someone sees us do the "good" deed, that's not right. Or when we feel like something isn't worth our time...maybe it's because there's no outward reward? Is that the right way to approach doing any "good" deed? That would be doing a right thing for a wrong reason...hypocrisy.

Matthew 6:5 shares about "prayers for public show." Seriously, who are you and I approaching when we pray? Any "catchy religious phrases," just so the church will recognize our words, are inappropriate.

Matthew 6:16 describes fasting. Why make yourself "look sick" so others will ask what's wrong? Is it just so you can tell them of your great sacrifice? Do you do what you can to look magnanimous? A sacrifice to God or for others should be done without any pomp and circumstance. Would you do it if nobody saw it but God?

Hypocrites pretend to look good. They act like everything is really great. They hide behind their "mask" so you can't see how they really are. It's because they want to do wrong. They don't want you to know that they're doing wrong so they have many types of "masks" to wear.

Do you wear a mask?

Would Jesus want you to wear a mask?

Bday/Anniv Lunch: ...when we can!

Bible Study: Consider your study of God's Word (see **2 Timothy 2:15**) Make time to learn Scripture today...

NMCCH: collecting aluminum foil and kitchen trash bags (pick up is later...)

—THANK YOU for reading!