

James 1:23-24

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

You can Photoshop your picture, but you can't Photoshop who you really are.

Yet how many try to hide behind the different masks they have created to fit into the crowd of people they are with. You have your work mask, your church mask, your bar mask, your unsaved friends that you hang with mask, your saved friends that you hang with mask, your mask at home when the family is around and your masks when no one else is around. But which one is the real you?

In my book, *Go Right or Get Left*, Lucky (the main character) had to confront this mask issue when he was on his journey. Here is an excerpt from that.

Right before we walked into Life town, one of the first things I noticed was that right outside the entrance, there were hundreds of thousands of masks. A lot of them had painted smiles that were made up to look attractive and alluring to others. A lot of the masks I recognized, because I wore so many of the same masks. Then some were not so pretty or attractive, being painted up to look mean and nasty and uncaring about others, as people tried to portray something, or someone they really weren't.

I could so relate to all these different masks, because I used to do the same thing just to be accepted, and man was I good at it. I could switch a mask quicker than you could blink an eye. I was always so good at being someone else, but when I got home and was alone; I had to take it all off and I couldn't hide behind any of the masks from myself. I had worn so many masks that I would start to hate who I was, because I always wanted to be someone I portrayed myself to be, but never was. The truth was that I was alone because I wore the masks. I never thought that so many people could see right through them and that they hated the fact that I wore them. So they rejected me, because I wasn't being . . . well, just being me. I wonder how many of these people who dropped their masks outside the entrance felt the same way. How could they drop their masks and be happy with who they really were?

Yet we all still do it. Even as I read this excerpt from the book that I wrote and the words that I penned I still have to think how many are living a lie or wanting to be something or someone that God did not create them to be.

Let this next verse really hit home for all of us and may we remember that God created us perfectly and we can't make His perfection any better than it is.

† **Psalm 139:14** *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*

I love doing this next part. Take this verse that you just read and insert your name where the word I is.

_____ will praise You, for _____ is fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

You see, you as just you, not some mask covered face or body is a marvelous work of God. Rest in that and know that God is madly in love with you, just the way He created you!

† **Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT2)** *“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”*