



INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

What it means to love one another

*Argyle
Community Church*



*2019 summer
sermon series*



2 Cor. 6:3—13

**OPENNESS &
HONESTY**

Interpersonal
Relationships - what
it means to love one
another

HE SPOKE
HONESTLY
WITH THEM; HIS
SPEECH WAS
TRUTHFUL



HONESTY

v7

HONESTY

4 ...as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way:

6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

7 in **truthful speech** and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left...

2 Cor. 6:7



HE WAS
OPEN
WITH
THEM



OPENNESS

v11-13



OPENNESS

11 We have **spoken freely** to you, Corinthians, and **opened wide our hearts** to you. 12 We are not withholding our **affection** from you, but you are withholding yours from us. 13 As a fair exchange—**I speak as to my children**—open wide your hearts also.

2 Cor. 6:11—13



—
O p e n n e s s

—
H o n e s t y

+

×

×

**HE WANTS
THE SAME
FROM THEM**

—



WHY
OPENNESS
&
HONESTY?

+ *LOVE*

+ *FLOURISHING*

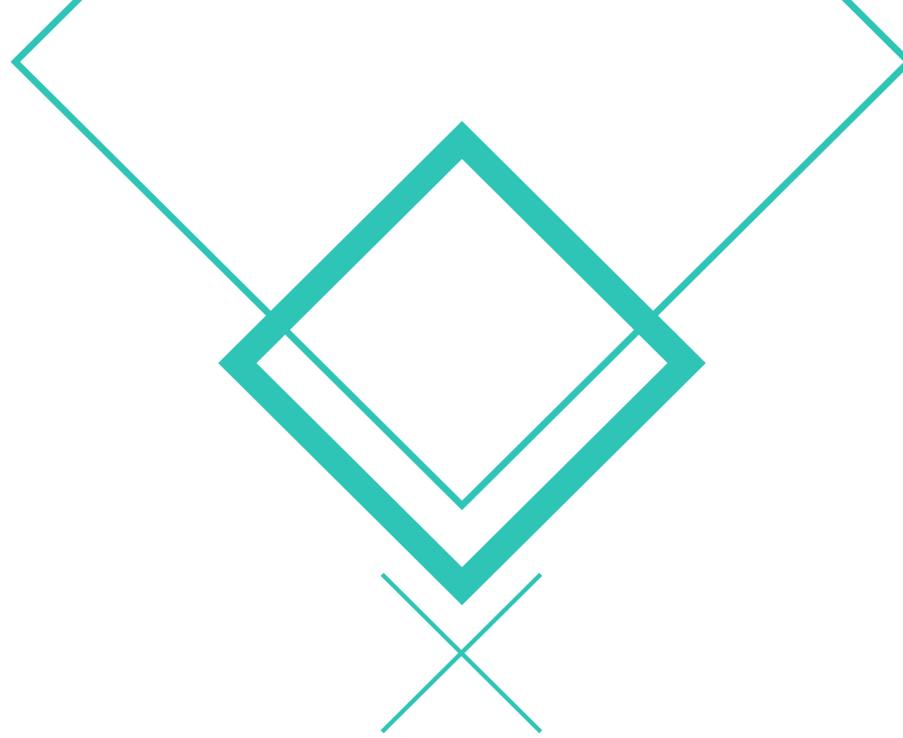
+ *ATMOSPHERE*

+ *SECURITY*

+ *SUPPORT*

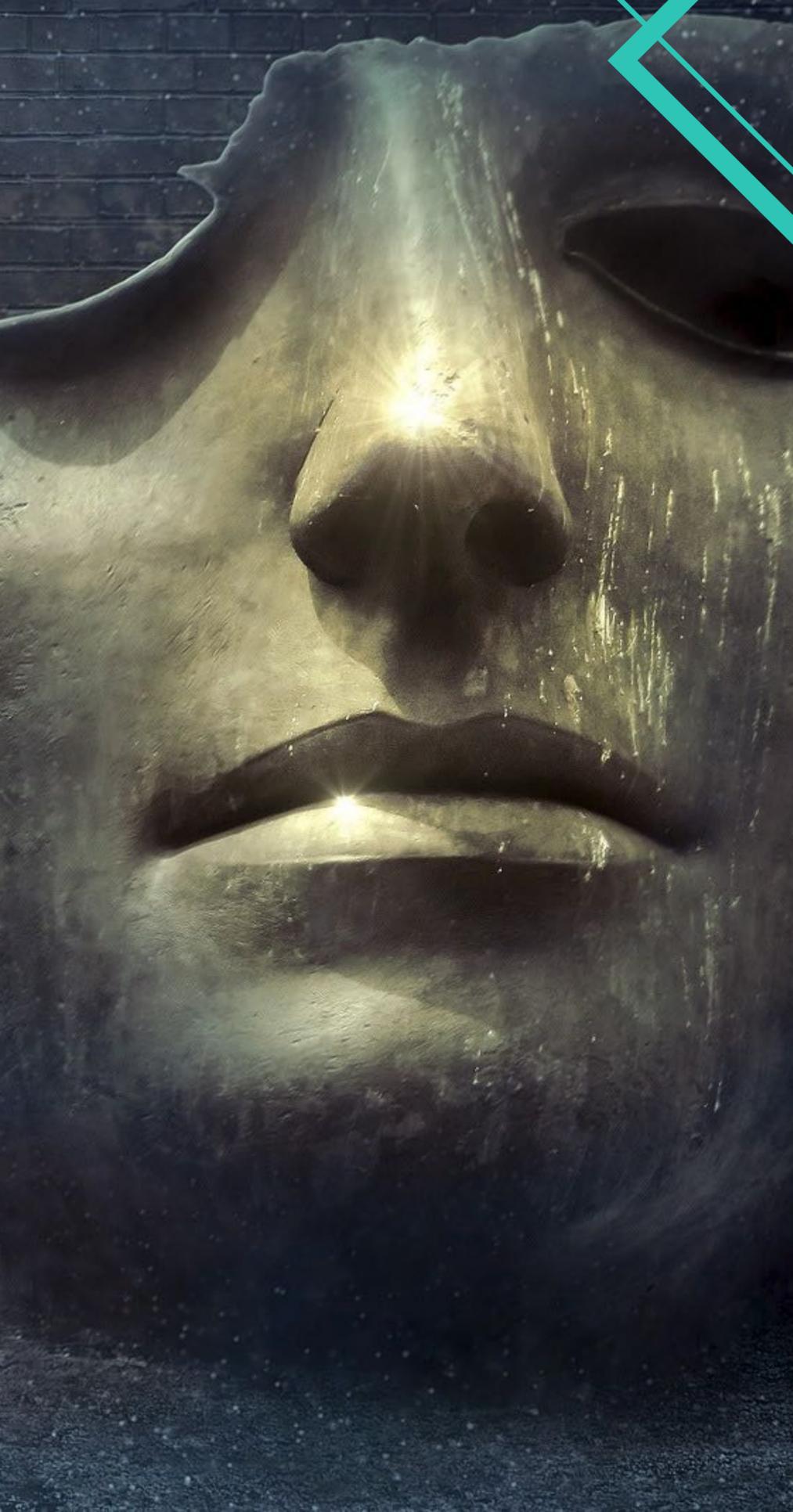
+ *BIBLICAL*

+ *REASSURANCE*



ALL TOO OFTEN
WE WEAR A MASK





WHY DO WE WEAR MASKS?

- ▶ **Pride** I want to appear strong & sorted
- ▶ **Fear** I hide the real me because I'm too boring/mediocre/rubbish/uninteresting
- ▶ **Shame** I don't want to be exposed as incompetent/worthless/stupid/weak
- ▶ **Approval** I want respect not derision. I want to be something, not nothing. My mask gets me people's approval.



MARK MEYNELL

THE PROS AND CONS OF MASKS

PROS

Temporary

Polite

Protects others

Appropriate

Form of self-protection

CONS

Permanent

Conceals reality

Inhibits support

Dishonest

Discourages others





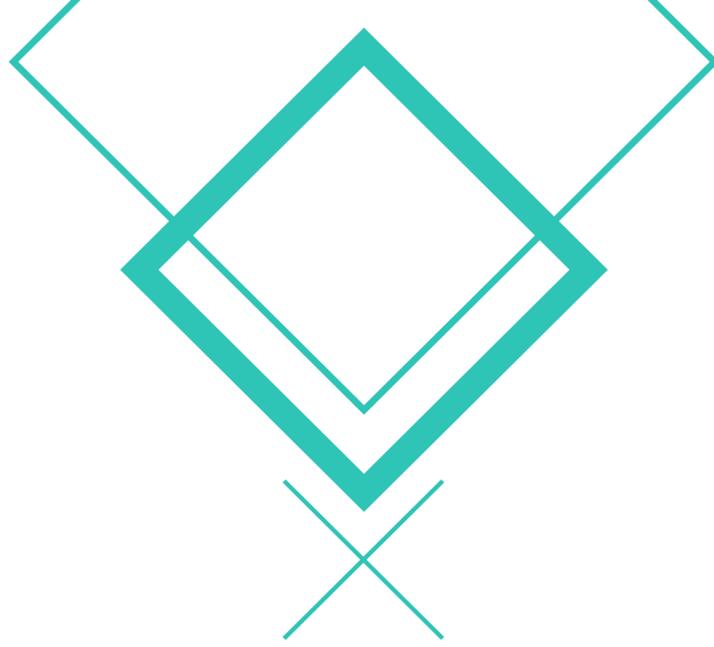
JESUS LAMBASTED THE PHARISEES FOR THEIR MASK-WEARING

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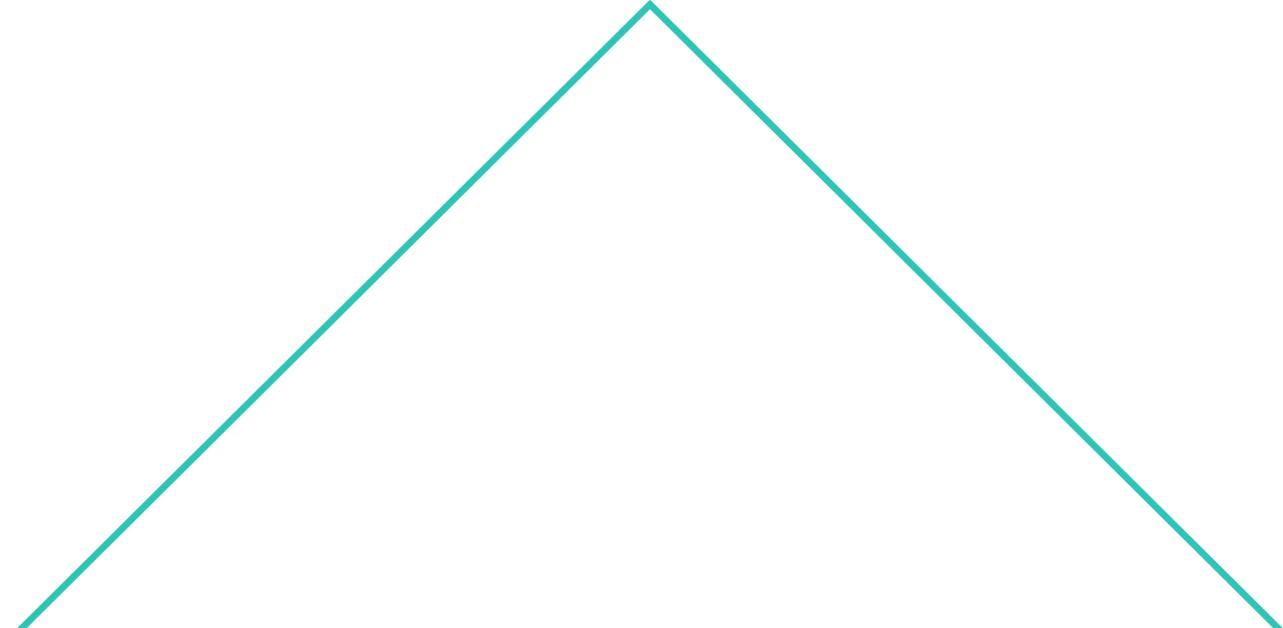
WE ARE TO BE OPEN AND HONEST BUT HOW?

—
O p e n n e s s

—
H o n e s t y



THE FULL-ORBED BEAUTY OF
THE GOSPEL





MASK

Gospel

I hide my weaknesses and play up my strengths to gain people's approval.

I count on other people's opinions of me to give me a sense of personal credibility/acceptance/validity/good standing.



NO MASK

Gospel

I can be honest about my weaknesses and don't show off my strengths because my approval comes from God via Christ's perfect performance counted as mine.

I count on God's opinion of me to give me a sense of personal credibility/acceptance/validity/good standing. His opinion is "You are my child. I love you. I'm well-pleased with you" and is based on Jesus's work on my behalf.



How can we be
open & honest?

—
HOW DO WE
TAKE THE
MASK OFF?



By breathing in the
oxygen of the gospel
**AND LETTING IT BE
OUR STRENGTH**