

Faith Messenger

Stepping Out From Behind the Mask



The past few months have been some very trying times for our nation. Economic shut-downs, shelter-in-place orders and mandatory masking in most places has made an already tense political and social environment only all the more isolated and fearful. Some of those same orders have - in certain ways - even made things a little easier, though not necessarily always for the better. You see, if there's one thing that we humans like to do – it's HIDE. It was our first reaction to our awareness of failure in the garden (Gen 3:8) and it's BY FAR the *easiest* way to handle any difficulty we may encounter...though certainly not the most effective! While the medical necessity and effectiveness of wearing masks in public is a topic of MUCH heated debate and disagreement, the benefits of being able to hide behind a mask have been touted by bank robbers and terrorists from LONG before most people in the world could even begin to tell you what a “novel coronavirus” was.

The masks I'm talking about today aren't facial coverings or respirators designed to filter out viruses or other dirty bugs that could do us physical harm though. As we come into a period of accepting nominations for CHURCH LEADERSHIP during the month of September, the “masks” I'm speaking about today are those that we, especially as men, like to wear that enable us to HIDE behind a certain public persona which allows us to be relatively confident of the opinion that others have of us. It's the mask of pride which often parades as a false humility and which hears the call to lead by example through those God-ordained positions of authority within the church (1 Tim 3 & Titus 2), yet refuses from lack of “ability.” It's a mask which hides our desire to not want to get “too involved” because we're “too busy” (which might demand re-examining some priorities) or from our fear of what others may think of us and our decisions should we choose to step out from behind that mask which allows us to stay so comfortably hidden. **God has given the men of the church the divine imperative to take the initiative to step up and lead His people, trusting in HIS word and HIS wisdom more than any mask of public expectations or personal perceptions.** I encourage all of the men of our church to CAREFULLY EXAMINE YOUR HEARTS to see if the Lord might be calling you to be involved in different ways or at deeper levels than perhaps you've ever been involved with His church before. If you find any lingering doubt that you might still be hiding behind a mask, come see Tracey or myself – let us help you explore that potential call to leadership. Make use of the means that are in place to equip the men of the church for the task that lays before us if we're willing, as God's men, to simply step out from behind the mask.

PCA Book of Church Order - CHAPTER 7: Church Officers - General Classification

7-1. Under the New Testament, our Lord at first collected His people out of different nations, and united them to the household of faith by the ministry of extraordinary officers who received extraordinary gifts of the Spirit and who were agents by whom God completed His revelation to His Church. Such officers and gifts related to new revelation have no successors since God completed His revelation at the conclusion of the Apostolic Age.

7-2. The ordinary and perpetual classes of office in the Church are elders and deacons. Within the class of elder are the two orders of teaching elders and ruling elders. The elders jointly have the government and spiritual oversight of the Church, including teaching. Only those elders who are specially gifted, called and trained by God to preach may serve as teaching elders. The office of deacon is not one of rule, but rather of service both to the physical and spiritual needs of the people. In accord with Scripture, these offices are open to men only.

7-3. No one who holds office in the Church ought to usurp authority therein, or receive any official titles of spiritual preeminence, except such as are employed in the Scriptures.

By His Grace,
Pastor Justin

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 26

6:30pm – Faith Ladies’ devotional/fellowship time at the home of Dirk & Lynn VanderMeulen –
1075 CR32240, Sumner, TX 75486

Directions from Lynn: “NOT 32250 as Google suggests – We have a long driveway off of 32240. An ugly mailbox in a row of 3 marks our drive.”

If you have questions, you may contact Lynn at (360) 815-5284

Sunday, August 30

9:45am - **Sunday school** - Adults and children will meet together in the sanctuary and continue our study of the Westminster Larger Catechism

10:45am – **Worship** - We will continue our study of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians
- Picnic style “bring you own lunch” to follow worship

Praise and Prayer Requests for Week of August 23, 2020

1. Prayer that **God would be at work within the hearts of the men of our church** as we seek nominations for church leadership in the coming month.
2. Praise for **Vicky DeKnight’s** successful surgery and prayer for ongoing healing for both her and Dave as they recover from their recent procedures.
3. Prayer for relief and healing for **Linda Addis** who is battling with some breathing problems.
4. Prayer for **Coy**, a co-worker of Tracey Jones, who recently broke his arm.
5. Prayer for **Sutter Bostwick**, family friend of the Hilliard’s, who is battling an infection in his arm.
6. Prayer for **Doug Morris** as he prepares to undergo surgery in September.
7. Prayer for **Mike Leddy** as he continues to battle a number of health issues and for strength for **Georgia** as she continues to minister to him during this time.
8. Prayer for Evelyn Ridley’s two boys – **Randy and Blake** – for salvation for Randy and for wisdom and discernment for Blake as he faces some important decisions.
9. Prayer for our **nation** and our **leaders** during this time of unrest and difficulty.
10. Prayer for **all of those who have lost jobs** and are struggling through economic pressures during this uncertain time in our country.

If you have prayer requests, praise reports, or any items that you would like included in our newsletter - or if you have any other questions, concerns, or needs –

please feel free to email Pastor Justin at faithparispca@gmail.com or CALL/TEXT him at (903) 517-6315.

Sunday’s sermon and many others can be heard online on our church website at
www.faithparispca.org