

DEVOTION THIRTY ONE.

Lay down your mask!



I am forty now and I have spent much of my time not being sure who I really am. Who is Gary Lamb? What does he stand for? How will he be remembered?

We can spend so much time thinking about who we want to be, we forget who we are.

I have found this to be especially true during my teenage years. I wanted to fit in so much I would be willing to adapt my personality in order to be liked. I would violate my own conscience to look good.

I remember the power of peer pressure that would tempt me into making decisions that I would inevitably regret and that would ultimately lead to guilt and shame.

I recall times where I would swear, smoke and look at porn with others in order to fit in, and whilst it appeared that I was fitting in with the crowd inside I was haunted by the fact that I didn't want to do these things. I became a master at wearing a mask, so much so I was not sure whether the mask was me or not.

As I have got older and it has not been straightforward I have come to realise how freeing it is to pursue a Holy (right living) life. It is freeing because it is what I have always wanted inside. To live a life fighting sin is me laying down my mask. When I am honest, when I confess my sin, when I strive towards right living I am me.

I really want to let you know that wearing a mask is incredibly uncomfortable and you will NEVER feel at peace. Think about how uncomfortable it feels to tell a 'little lie'? When you lie you wear a mask.



Spend some time thinking about your own mask. What does it look like? Maybe make your mask? Own up to your dark side. And lay down your mask. Being you is better than being the mask.

2 Corinthians 4:2 (the message)



"We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't manoeuvre behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God."



WRITTEN BY GARY