

## Take off the Mask

Stephanie went to her first Halloween party wearing a beautiful fairy princess costume her mother had made. It was a very happy party and everyone enjoyed guessing who was in each of the costumes. When they got home Mother asked Stephanie what she liked best about the party, and she said that it was when everyone took off their masks. Stephanie said that it was good to see all her friends' faces, instead of seeing the scary and silly masks that they were wearing.



One day, not long after the Halloween party, Stephanie came home from school in tears. She said that two papers had been turned into the teacher with the very same answers on them. One of the papers had been hers and the other belonged to another girl in the class. When the teacher called them both up in front of the room, the other girl said that Stephanie had copied her paper. The teacher believed the other girl and she scolded Stephanie in front of all the other kids. Stephanie was upset with the teacher for not believing her and the little girl for lying about her.

Mother sat quietly for a moment, holding Stephanie in her arms to help comfort her. She turned to God so He could tell her how to answer Stephanie. Then she remembered the Halloween party. She said, "Stephanie, what did you tell me was the nicest part of the Halloween party?" The child looked up in surprise. "When my friends took off their masks," she said. "That is exactly what you and I need to do right now," said Mother. "You have just told me about a little girl that was dishonest and a teacher that was not fair. Did God create a dishonest or an unfair person?" Stephanie shook her head no.

"Then if God never made dishonesty and unfairness, where did they come from?" Mother asked. "I see what you mean," said Stephanie. "Error of any kind doesn't belong to anyone because God makes all His children perfect, happy, and good." Mother nodded yes to the answer and said, "So we know that dishonesty and unfairness are only masks tempting us to believe that there are other children besides the good children of God. Now, how shall we get the masks off of the teacher and the little girl?" Stephanie thought for a minute and then said, "I guess by just knowing that there aren't any other children but God's children." "Exactly right," said Mother.

A little later, the phone rang. It was the little girl from school and she was crying. She told Stephanie that she was sorry that she had lied about the paper. She also said that she had called the teacher and told her that it was she that had copied Stephanie's paper. A few minutes later, the phone rang again. It was the teacher telling Stephanie how sorry she was about the scolding, and that she would tell the true story to the other kids in the morning. Stephanie was so happy that everything had worked out. She was also happy to have learned how to take off a nasty mask from the little girl and to see her as God had made her, His perfect, loving child.

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*Genesis 1:27 "Since God has created all that is real and true, all are in reality the children of God, made in His image and likeness."*

*S&H 582:28 "Children: "The spiritual thoughts and representatives of Life, Truth, and Love."*