

The Value of Shame

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Introduction: God has made man in a unique way. Unlike any of the animals we have a conscience.

- A. Our ability to be ashamed is a powerful tool in the Lord's hand.
 - 1. **Shame** - "A painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcoming, or impropriety which appears in the countenance by blushing."
 - 2. We do not like to feel shame because it is painful!
 - 3. It is better to feel the pain of our conscience **before** an action, that **after** an action!
- B. Our shame is a product of our teaching and experience, either good or bad!
(Rom 6:21-23)
 - 1. The gospel of Christ helps us to be ashamed when we should.
 - 2. Still the Christian must protect the conscience.
- C. Why we need a study of shame.
 - 1. The concept of shame is rapidly being lost.
 - a. Even the world acknowledges a place for it: "You ought to be ashamed!"
 - b. Sadly there are those who teach us to be ashamed of good things.
(Isa 5:20-21) (Ex. Ridicule of morals on TV talk show.)
 - 2. Shame can help us change. **(1 Cor 6:5)**

I. Why Do Men Feel Shame?

- A. Because of the **knowledge we have of right and wrong.**
 - 1. It is very common for new converts to say: "I never knew that it was wrong!"
 - 2. Because of a lack of knowledge, they had no shame.
- B. Because of the **knowledge of others.**
 - 1. The **knowledge of other people.**
 - a. Many things are not shameful until others are present or have knowledge.
 - b. Women - Clothing, housekeeping.
 - c. Men - dirty car, foul-up at work.
 - 2. The **knowledge of God. (2 Cor 7:9-10)**
 - a. Example: Someone apologizing to men for taking God's name in vain.
 - b. How can we develop a greater knowledge of God's presence?
(2 Pt 1:5-7)
- C. Why do some men not feel shame?
 - 1. By continued wrongdoing the conscience is destroyed. **(Zeph 3:5)**
 - 2. By sinking deeper into sin. **(1 Tim 4:2; Eph 4:19)**
 - 3. Do you remember the first time that:
 - a. You had a social drink?
 - b. Smoked the first cigarette?
 - c. Told a lie?
 - d. Engaged in immorality? Ex. Shoplifting

4. Have you ever asked of someone: “How did he/she get like that?”
5. The conscience is like an alarm clock. How many no longer hear it? Shame is valuable!

III. Things in which we should be ashamed.

- A. A Lack of knowledge of God’s word. **(2 Tim 2:15)**
 1. Can you give book, chapter, and verse for the plan of salvation?
 2. Example: Some tests I have given. **(1 Cor 6:5)**
- B. To dress immodestly **(1 Tim 2:9)**
 1. You can overdress or under dress.
 2. Sad to see a couple who moved and started attending a “liberal” church. A very common aspect of liberalism is a complete neglect of modesty.
 3. What is God’s standard for clothing? Are you concerning about what you wear?
- C. To speak of certain sins. **(Eph 5:3, 12)**
 1. Do you tell dirty jokes?
 2. What do you watch? Example: Movie in 1973.
 3. Should Christians ever watch an R rated movie? Should we show them to our children and their guests?
 4. Brethren there is very little good that comes from Hollywood. Watch your sense of shame! We may do well to disconnect our televisions!
 5. Is it all just a matter of “degree” dictated by culture or is there a principle of God that must not be compromised?
- D. Women speaking in the church. **(1 Cor 14:35)**
 1. This is a shame because of God’s standard! **(1 Cor 14:37)**
 2. Many religions practice that which is shameful.
- E. A man to have long hair and a woman to have short hair. **(1 Cor 11:15, 5-6)**
- F. To place our trust in things that fail. **(Isa 30:3; 1 Cor 1:27)**
- G. False Religion. **(Jer 10:14; 51:17; Hosea 9:10)**

IV. How to maintain your sense of shame.

- A. Maintain and gain knowledge from God’s word. **(Col 1:9-10)**
- B. Keep the right company. **(1 Cor 15:33)**
 1. “I will not be affected by going to _____ with my friends.”
 2. What restraints are lost by wrong associations?.
- C. By maintaining a good reputation. **(Ruth 3:11)**
- D. By not being ashamed of good things.
 1. The gospel. **(Rom 1:16)**
 2. Faithful Christians. **(2 Tim 1:8)**
 - a. Example: A joke of a new convert.
 - b. Some do not want to be seen with there “lowly” brethren.
 3. To suffer as a Christian **(2 Tim 1:12; 1 Peter 4:16)**
 4. Of Christ and His will. **(Luke 9:26)**

Conclusion: God will never let you be put to shame, if you stand by His word.

(Joel 2:26-27; Rom 9:33; 10:11; 1 Pet 2:6)