

6.24.19 - Shame

Shame is used so often by textile people that we felt a need to take a closer look at the concept. Does it come from God, self or Satan? What does the Bible say about it? Are the textile people using the concept correctly?

Shame applies to the situation. Adam and Eve were without shame while naked before the fall, but a group of naked captives would have shame about their nakedness because it announced their defeat. If you start a new activity like tennis or bowling, your poor performance causes shame or embarrassment. If you keep engaging in the activity, the shame decreases even if your skill level is about the same. You become hardened to the shame. Shameful things change with age. What is overlooked in a young child is shameful in a teenager like selfishness, temper tantrum or short attention span. Shame depends on ability. It is a shame for someone who is gifted to give a poor performance in the area he is gifted. Some caution is needed on this one. You may think he is more gifted than he is because you will share in his achievement, for example if he is your son, student etc.

God is not the author of shame. God does not say anything in the exchange with Adam after the fall that implies shame about the first sin in Gen 3:9-24. This seems to be the best place to use shame if you were going to. Adam and Eve had a perfect environment with only a few rules to follow. They also had God for a friend and for advice if they needed it. God could have made many statements about how thoughtless they were or questioned what they hoped to gain by their sin or...

Shame is used 100 times in the KJV coming from 5 Hebrew words and 5 Greek words. Ashamed is used 122 times from 17 Hebrew words and 15 Greek words. The verses that I read implied that shame comes from man's judgement of man.

For example: **1Sa 20:34 - So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame. 2Sa 13:13 - And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.** It would take a long time to go through all the verses, but it would be an interesting word study.

When we sin, we feel conviction from God and shame if we are caught by man. If we repent from the sin, God will take away the conviction, but man seems to watch the weakness for a chance to add more shame.

The Bible does say, "It is a shame for a man to have long hair." Shame in this verse could mean unnatural. As we believe it is a shame to wear clothing if it is not protecting the body or needed for identification.

Shame has to be accepted by the person it is directed at much like offence needs to be taken. A friend of mine built an eight foot high privacy fence around his back yard so he could enjoy the outdoors as God intended. His son was cleaning the leaf litter off a roof and the neighbor woman in her 70's related a story how she got bitten by a snake while using a ladder trying to look over the fence to see why my friend built it. She had enough trouble walking in her yard and should have known to stay off ladders. Most people would have been too ashamed to try such a trick and she was willing to tell about it to the people she was attempting to spy on.

We are not born with a set of emotional responses. Like learning to walk and talk, we learn emotional responses. Since shame is an emotion, it is learned or programmed into us. If we are caught doing something we believe is disapprove by those around us we

feel shame. Some time in the past we had to learn what "they" approve of and what "they" do not approve of. Emotions are not under our direct control like walking or being seated, but the programming that causes the emotion can be rewritten. When you know that God is for the display of His image without clothing in the right setting and have been to some naturist resorts you will not feel ashamed of your activity because you have reprogrammed yourself.

To illustrate: Suppose you get a phishing call informing you that your son is in trouble with the law in some distant city and needs \$1000 for a lawyer. If you know that your son is not in the city mentioned by the caller you know that he is lying to get information to steal from you. If you do not know where your son might be (your son is a truck driver), you will be more likely to fall for the trick. Knowing the truth sets you free from the tricks of the caller just as knowing the Bible will set us free from the shame that textile people try to put on us.

The illustration can be expanded to our battle with Satan. The caller would represent Satan. The son would be your life and knowing would be a knowledge of the Bible. Satan has much more trouble getting the best of a Christian who knows his Bible rather than one who doesn't even know the names of the four gospels. **Jhn 8:32 - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.** Most of us form an opinion with very little information...so, when our opinion is challenged we do all that we can to defend the opinion. One of the tools in this defense is shame. If logic will not defend the textile opinion and if they don't have any Biblical footing, then they will try emotion, especially the emotion of shame. This is where you need to know to hold your ground. We do not suggest trying to win the debate with the other person, but you should win the debate within yourself and avoid the shame that others are trying to place on you. When they take the debate position, they are not looking for the truth, they are

looking to win. Even if you win the debate, they are of the same opinion still.

In conclusion...sometimes our job is not to convince the other person that we are right, sometimes our job is just to rest in the peace that comes from knowing God and His Word on a given subject. You see, when you know the Bible and especially when you know the God of that Bible, you know the truth and the truth makes you free...free from all guilt, free from all shame, free from all judgment. Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free!