

All Shame Ain't The Same!

I. There is NO place for an unhealthy permanent shame in the life of a Christian!

1John 2:28 - And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in SHAME at his coming.

Genesis 2:25 tells us that when man was created, he was naked and he knew no shame because he was innocent of evil.

When you use something in a way other than what it was intended for, you probably will find that the ultimate result is the opposite of the desired effect!

Unhealthy shame has become a huge barrier in the spiritual development of many of God's people and has negatively affected their relationship with God!

When we allow shame to reign in our lives as a result of sin, we make ourselves ineffective!

Unhealthy shame keeps us from being a threat to the devil!

Unhealthy shame keeps us from being an asset to the kingdom of God!

Unhealthy shame essentially keeps us from doing anything really worth doing!

James 1:13-16

13. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

14. but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

15. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

16. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

When you use something in a way other than what it was intended for, you will probably find that ultimate result is the opposite of the desired effect!

Shame has a purpose, but causing you to quit serving God is not it!

Unhealthy shame is the depression of our spiritual lives!

Unhealthy shame keeps you in an unrepentant state and becomes a wall between you and God!

Unhealthy shame eventually turns to bitterness, resentment, and if left unchecked can become an all-out hatred toward God!

When you allow shame to rule your life you kick God out of your heart and then wonder why He deserted you!

Unhealthy shame keeps us from seeing God's heart!

The first extreme is... Sin is justified because the person rationalizes that their sin is really no big deal!

The second extreme is allowing unhealthy shame to keep you from accepting and receiving the grace of God!

When unrepentant unhealthy shame takes hold of our hearts, we cannot feel the love and grace He offers because we view our own mistakes as being greater than the love or mercy of God!

When you use something in a way other than that which it was intended for, you probably will find that the ultimate result is the opposite of the desired effect!

Romans 10:9-15

9. That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

11. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to SHAME."

12. For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

13. for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

14. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

15. And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Jesus won't take your Unhealthy SHAME away from you by force any more than He'll take your SIN from you by force!

II. What is the intended purpose of shame?

Jeremiah 6:15-16

15 Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ASHAMED; they did not know how to blush. Therefore, they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown," says the Lord.

16 Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.

Romans 5:1-5

- 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
- 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
- 5 and hope does not put us to SHAME, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

- 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."
- 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your SHAME.

2 Cor. 7:10 - Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

When we allow ourselves to hold on to shame longer than is necessary to draw us near to God...

Then that shame becomes not a tool from God, but a trap from the devil!

We must learn to use shame as it was intended so that it draws us TO God instead of forcing us AWAY from Him!

Shame is a tool from God, but it is only effective when we are willing to let go of it!