

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SHAME?

TEXT: (Proverbs 27:11, AMPC)

¹¹ My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me [as having failed in my parental duty].

INTRODUCTION

1. “My son, when you walk in wisdom, my heart is filled with gladness, for the way you live is proof that I’ve not taught you in vain” (Proverbs 27:11, TPT).
2. “Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame” (Genesis 2:25, NIV).
3. “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves” (Genesis 3:7, NIV).
4. “Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful” (Revelation 21:27, NIV).
5. “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation” (II Corinthians 7:10, NIV).

I. ERRONEOUS BELIEFS THAT PREVENT THE FEELING OF SHAME

A. My Sins Are Due to an Improper Upbringing

1. “‘Who told you that you were naked?’ the LORD God asked. ‘Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?’

The man replied, ‘It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.’

Then the LORD God asked the woman, ‘What have you done?’

‘The serpent deceived me,’ she replied. ‘That’s why I ate it’” (Genesis 3:11-13, NLT).

B. The Devil Made Me Do It

1. “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (II Corinthians 5:17, NIV).

C. It’s Wrong Only if You Knowingly Sin

1. “He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus” (II Thessalonians 1:8, NIV).

D. All You Have to Do to Be Forgiven Is Feel Sorry for Your Sins

1. “I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds” (Acts 26:20, NIV).

E. When “in Christ” You Can Sin Freely and Still Be Forgiven.

1. “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1-2, KJV).

II. DON’T SHAME OUR FAMILY NAME

1. “My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me [as having failed in my parental duty]” (Proverbs 23:11, AMPC).
2. “So that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander” (I Peter 3:16, NIV)

A. Always Be True to Your Word

1. “A *good* name [earned by honorable behavior, godly wisdom, moral courage, and personal integrity] is more desirable than great riches; And favor is better than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1, AMP).

B. Choose Your Words Carefully

1. “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19, NIV).
2. “Don’t shoot off your mouth, or speak before you think. Don’t be too quick to tell God what you think he wants to hear” (Ecclesiastes 5:2, MSG).

C. Maintain Just Business Practices

1. “Don’t cheat when measuring length, weight, or quantity. Use honest scales and weights and measures. I am God, your God” (Leviticus 19:35-36, MSG).
2. “A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight” (Proverbs 11:1, KJV).
3. “My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me [as having failed in my parental duty]” (Proverbs 23:11, AMPC).

D. Associate with Wise and Godly People

1. “If you want to grow in wisdom, spend time with the wise. Walk with the wicked and you’ll eventually become just like them” (Proverbs 13:20, TPT).
2. “So stop fooling yourselves! Evil companions will corrupt good morals and character” (I Corinthians 15:33, TPT).

III. Shame and the Church

1. “The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that” (Proverbs 29:25, MSG).

A. Don’t Shame Your Church

1. “I also received a report of scandalous sex within your church family, a kind that wouldn’t be tolerated even outside the church: One of your men is sleeping with his stepmother. And you’re so above it all that it doesn’t even faze you! Shouldn’t this break your hearts? Shouldn’t it bring you to your knees in tears? Shouldn’t this person and his conduct be confronted and dealt with?” (I Corinthians 5:1-2, MSG).
2. “If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord’s people? ... Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers!” (I Corinthians 6:1, 4-6, NIV).

B. Shame Should Bring About Change

- 1 “Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed” (II Thessalonians 3:14, NIV).

2. “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot” (Matthew 5:13, NIV).
3. “But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people” (I Corinthians 5:11, NIV).

C. Shame Leads to Repentance

1. “Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us” (II Corinthians 7:8-9, NIV).
2. “See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done” (II Corinthians 7:11, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. “From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. “Peace, peace,” they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when I punish them,’ says the LORD” (Jeremiah 6:13-15, NIV).
3. So, is shame always good? Probably not.
4. On the other hand, is shame always bad? Definitely not!