

Of Whom Are You Ashamed?

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Introduction: Do you remember each day who you are?

A. How we view ourselves will affect everything we do. What is the viewpoint of a Christian? **(1 Cor 6:19-20)**

1. We have been bought and cleansed by God. Our purpose is to glorify God!
2. A parent may say to a child going away to “remember who you are!”
3. It should bring great pain to know that one has caused their parents great shame.

B. We are always in a battle to keep our hearts attuned to God’s ways.

1. At conversion we should look back and be ashamed at our prior conduct.

(Rom 6:20-22)

2. A good test of where we are going spiritually is to examine what and who makes us ashamed!

I. The Value of Shame

A. What does it mean to be ashamed?

1. Ashamed - *ἐπαισχύνομαι* - (1) as denoting a sense of guilt and remorse *be ashamed* (RO 6.21); (2) as denoting fear of embarrassment that one's expectations may prove false *be ashamed, be embarrassed (to), hesitate (to)* (RO 1.16); (3) as denoting reluctance through fear of humiliation *be ashamed, be afraid (to), lack courage to stand up for* (MK 8.38)
2. It can be towards something that is wrong or it can be towards expectations that have let us down.

B. There are two conflicting systems that teach us about shame. **(Rom 8:5-8)**

1. We are seeing a great increase in the teaching of the powers of this world towards what should make one ashamed. Should we be ashamed at the practice of homosexuality or ashamed at the one who opposes homosexuality?
2. Should we put trust in the man who teaches and stands upon the word of God or shall we trust in the man whom the world praises?
3. You will choose in this life. You also can reverse your thinking. We will be challenged in our lives to show who we really are!

C. God’s people build their thoughts upon God and the truth He reveals.

(2 Tim 1:11-13; Ps 25:1-5)

1. Righteousness, justice, mercy and truth will be found in the hearts of those who trust in God. How they think and why they choose in based upon a truth that they are willing to share and stand upon. **(1 Pt 3:15)**
2. They also become used to being rejected and falsely attacked by the world. They are used to the world closing their ears! **(1 Jn 4:4-6)**

II. Of whom are you ashamed?

A. All men will use the moral systems they have learned to guide their lives.

1. Some will profess to be guided by God but actually are fully following the world. **(Jn 16:1-3)**
 2. When you trust in worldly men you will be greatly ashamed over time! **(Isa 20:5)**
- B. We should not be ashamed of our brethren that walk by faith.
1. Consider the principled stand that Christians make in their everyday decisions to put God first. The world thinks they are crazy! **(Mt 6:33)**
 2. Consider a local church that seeks to glorify God by only abiding in the teachings of the head Jesus Christ. **(1 Pt 4:11)**
 3. Paul knew the pain of brethren who *became ashamed at him* because he stood against the world and suffered for it. **(2 Tim 4:10, 14-16)**
 4. Paul was thankful for those brethren that *stood with him* and were not ashamed. **(2 Tim 1:15-18)**
 5. A change in what causes us shame is an *indicator of a changing heart*. Paul exhorted Timothy in this area. **(2 Timothy 1:7-8)**

III. We must learn to never be ashamed of God

- A. When we come to know God we become committed to the light and become ashamed of darkness. **(Jn 3:19-21; Eph 5:8-13; 1 Jn 1:5; 5:2-3, 20)**
1. God tells exactly what He will do and rest assured that He will keep His word!
 2. We learn to think and choose upon a doctrinal core. We are honest and open. **(Ps 119:5-6, 46-47, 78-80, 116)**
 3. Truth brings *a willingness to be tested* and to communicate with others. What churches in this area openly asks for their beliefs to be tested. Be honest!
 4. Satan wants to *isolate you and never have your choices tested*. Relationships and passion then becomes the power that pulls you into darkness. **(Ps 1:1-2)**
- B. One day we will desire with all that we are that God is not ashamed of us.
1. What will we hear when we stand before God? **(Mk 8:38)**
 2. We must not be ashamed of or cast off those who serve God!
- C. Satan will test every follower of God as he did Jesus. **(Isa 50:6-7)**
1. He was scourged, He was slapped, had his hair pulled out and was spit upon. **(Mt 26:67)**
 2. He was not in any way ashamed but determined.
 3. He had a face like flint. **(Ezk 3:8-9)**
- D. Look at the rapidly changing practices of churches. Why is this happening?
1. When we abandon God's word and the teaching it demands, we will be pulled with the changing standards of the world.
 2. Let us seek to be challenged and changed by the distinctive teaching that comes from God. We may need to be ashamed at how little we know! **(2 Tim 2:15)**
 3. Do you know who you are? **(Rev 3:1; Rom 1:16)**

Conclusion: Let us not shrink from the conflict that a living faith brings. We will not be ashamed at the end result! **(Phil 1:20-21; Rom 10:11)**