

"Guilt and Shame"

Genesis 3.7-19

Small village in France, not on most maps– WATERLOO/ Name Known Round World
1815 Duke of Wellington def. Emperor Napoleon CHANGED WESTERN HISTORY

SINGLE EVENT - 1,000's Yrs AGO - NOW OVER-GROWN GARDEN EDEN

CHANGED COURSE OF ETERNITY FOR ENTIRE HUMAN RACE

TREE CARRIED DIVINE WARNING 2.17 "when you eat of it you will surely die"

MAN & WOMAN– OVERWHELMED by its APPEAL– Lost All trying to Gain All

GAINED Knowledge but LOST Innocence - MENTAL GROWTH / MORAL LOSS

1. Reality of Death

PRESENT DEATH FELT / FUTURE DEATH FEARED

DEATH = SEPARATION / Gradual Process: Soul, Body, Eternity

a. Guilt - FEELING RESPONSIBLE FOR DOING SOMETHING WRONG

GUILT - legal standing // SHAME - social/psychological standing

GENERATION OF THERAPISTS - GUILT IS NOT HEALTHY, AVOID IT

We have become MASTERS OF DENIAL - PLAY THE BLAME GAME

WE IMITATE OUR FIRST PARENTS – Adam & Eve

Genesis 3:12,13 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

ADAM - blamed woman AND God / LUTHER quotes Adam "YOU Lord have sinned"

EVE - blamed the serpent v. 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

NUEREMBERG TRIALS - after WW2 - NAZI WAR CRIMINALS vs. Humanity

JOSEPH SUESS- admin assist/Whimpered "A soldier can only carry out his orders."

WALTER LANGLESIT - battalion commander

"I was just a little man. Those things were done on orders of the big shots."

COL. HOESS Commandant of Auschwitz - Over 2 1/2 million People exterminated

"It was understood that if something went wrong the man who gave the orders was responsible. So I didn't think I would ever have to answer for myself."

HERMAN GOERING 2nd man in Third Reich "We had a Fuher. We had to obey orders."

HITLER COPPED OUT BY COMMITTING SUICIDE

SO THE KILLING OF OVER SIX MILLION PEOPLE WAS NOBODY'S FAULT

21st Century Man is Far Superior / its called ENRON
 4 Billion Dollars of People's Money Squandered / NO ONE GUILTY or INFORMED
 NO SKELETONS TO FIND / ONLY SHREDDDED PAPERS

Psalms 69:5 "You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you."

James "whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." 2.10

TODAY WE BLAME - parents, teachers, society, pastor, church

BAD GUILT - FROM THE ACCUSER drives away from God, HOPELESSNESS
 GOOD GUILT - FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT leads to God and reconciliation

Heb 10:22 "having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience"

b. Shame Painful Feeling OF EMBARRASSMENT from DOING WRONG

MORE REFERENCES IN SCRIPTURE TO SHAME THAN GUILT
 IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS

GUILT - legal standing // SHAME - social/psychological standing

BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH "saving face" - FOCUS ON SELF - FOCUS ON CHRIST!!
 STANDARD WAY TO GET RID OF SHAME – CONCEALMENT / HIDING

Genesis 3.7 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.

CONTRASTING PICTURE BEFORE THEY SINNED

Genesis 2:25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 3:11 GOD said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

THIS IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF EVIL - DISTORTED UNDERSTANDING OF GOOD

WHY COVER THEMSELVES??

1) NAKEDNESS EXPOSED THEIR DIFFERENCES - REMINDED THEM OF GOD

GOD WHO MADE THEM DIFFERENT - THEY WERE NOT REALLY LIKE GOD

SIMILAR PROBLEM WITH BLURRING OF SEXUAL DISTINCTIONS IN WORLD
 Unisex Movement / Denial of God who Made us Male and Female

2) NAKEDNESS SHOWED THEY WERE MADE FOR EACHOTHER

THEY WERE DEPENDENT - ON EACHOTHER - AND ON GOD!!
DECLARED THEIR INDEPENDENCE- THEY REALIZE THEIR INADEQUACY

WAYS WE TRY TO COVER OUR NAKED SHAME BEFORE THE SIGHT OF GOD:

1) COMPARISON WITH OTHERS - not as bad as some, better than others

GOD'S STANDARDS PERFECT / NOT RELATIVE / NOT COMPARED w/ OTHERS
JESUS is Our Standard: God...predestined (us) to be conformed to the likeness of his Son
Romans 8:29

2) LOOK AT CORPORATE SIN RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL

"REAL PROBLEM: greater evil is in government, school, business, church"
REASON WHY - each made up of individual sinners, COMPOUNDED Intensity of Evil

3) THINK THERE IS SAFETY IN NUMBERS

"HEY, EVERYBODY IS DOING IT - Maybe I'm going to hell, but I'll have many friends
PROBLEM - Hell is lonely place - ONLY FACE OF OUR RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

4) ASSUME THAT TIME CANCELS SIN

"that was when I was a child...before I became a church leader, or parent...years ago"

GUESS WHAT?! SIN IS NOT ERASED BY TIME
NO TIME WITH GOD - HE LIVES IN THE ETERNAL PRESENT

UNFORGIVEN SIN REMAINS UNFORGIVEN SIN - NEED REPENTANCE

NOTHING - NOT EVEN TIME - CAN REMOVE SIN EXCEPT
"the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

MUST ACT ON THIS PROMISE - MAKE THINGS RIGHT - RESTORATION

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God...
No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame Psalms 25:1-3

c. Fear AGITATED FEELING CAUSED BY ANTICIPATED DANGER

Genesis 3:8b they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Isaiah 2:19 Men will flee to caves in the rocks and to holes in the ground from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to shake the earth.

THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE IS RUNNING AND HIDING FROM GOD

Rom 3:11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away

ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FEAR IS FLIGHT - RUNNING AND HIDING

JAMES BOICE "We fear to come upon God and therefore hide in the midst of whatever intellectual or psychological shrubbery we can find...men and women fear the voice of God and run from Him"

WRONG FEAR OF GOD - being guilty in sin, fear God as Judge

RIGHT FEAR OF GOD - standing justified, gazing at holiness, awe

Psalms 34:9 Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.

MARTIN LUTHER "Being afraid of God is different from fearing God. The fear of God is the fruit of love, but being afraid of Him is the seed of hatred. Therefore, we should not be afraid of God but should fear Him so that we do not hate Him whom we should love."

PHRASE "fear of God" USED AS EQUIVALENT FOR TRUE RELIGION
"one who fears God" MOST CHARACTERISTIC EXPRESSION - PERSON OF FAITH

TRUE FAITH IS BOTH ATTRACTED to AND TERRIFIED of our AWESOME GOD

2. Response of God

DID NOT COME IN TERROR / UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE - SCOLDING THEM

a. God is Unchanging

v. 8a Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day

REGULAR PRACTICE OF COMING TO FELLOWSHIP IN THE GARDEN

You can quit coming to Church/ Sunday Morning God will come to you – Remember Me?

You can quit Reading the Word / Words of God will pierce your Heart – Sword of Spirit

THE HOUND OF HEAVEN – Will Seek His Wayward People / No matter where they are
FOOLISH TO TRY AND RUN AWAY FROM GOD - three reasons

1) SURE TO FAIL - WE CANNOT ESCAPE HIS PRESENCE

Psalms 139:7-12 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are

there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

EXAMPLE - Jonah - ran to Tarshish, Spain opposite Nineveh, Assyria
EVEN IN THE SEA GOD PROVIDED THE GREAT FISH - NO ESCAPE

2) IT WILL MAKE YOU MISERABLE

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

EXAMPLE - the Prodigal Son - FUN IS AWAY FROM THE FATHER!!
NO MONEY - NO FRIENDS - NO FOOD - NO HOPE = LOST AND DEAD

EVERYTHING THAT IS GOOD AND MEANINGFUL IN THIS LIFE IS FROM GOD

3) GOD LOVES YOU EVEN WHEN YOU RUN AWAY

FATHER RUNS TO SON - EMBRACES SMELL - SON= ring,shoes,robe,calf

SIN DOES NOT MAKE GOD STOP LOVING US - EXPRESSED IN CONVICTION
IF YOU ARE FAR AWAY FROM GOD?? WHO MOVED??

b. God asks Questions

DIDN'T AN OMNISCIENT GOD KNOW WHAT OCCURRED IN EDEN??

Genesis 3:9 the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3:11 GOD said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

Genesis 3:13 the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

QUESTIONS - NOT SO HE COULD LEARN THE ANSWER

SO THEY COULD SPEAK THE ANSWER - CONFESSION OF SIN / RESTORED
INSTEAD OF A CONFESSION - THEY GAVE AN EXCUSE

EXAMPLE OF JOB - after 37 chs. of excuses and false justification

Job 38:1-5 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. God said: "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? {3} Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. {4} "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. {5} Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?"

JESUS WAS MASTER OF THIS TECHNIQUE "why do you call me good?"

"where are your accusers?" "who do men say I am?"

"when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

ULTIMATE ETERNAL QUESTION GOD WILL ASK -

"what have you done with my Son?" - ONLY WAY OF SALVATION

c. Judgment of God

1) Serpent: Curse GOD HAD PREVIOUSLY ONLY SPOKEN BLESSINGS

GOD DOES NOT DIGNIFY THE SERPENT WITH QUESTIONS – Only Curses

Genesis 3:14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH Isa 65:25 dust will be the serpent's food

Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, (that ancient serpent) was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur

CHARGED, TRIED, CONVICTED / SENTENCE WAS SWIFTLY EXECUTED

MORE CURSED THAN ANY OTHER ANIMAL - PEOPLE HATE/FEAR SNAKES!!
WHY SOME PEOPLE MOVE TO HAWAII – NO SNAKES

REMEMBER AFRICAN VILLAGERS ALL CHASE AFTER SNAKE AND KILL IT

JAMES BOICE "We do not know what the serpent looked like before this judgment, though he must have been a very beautiful and upright creature, perhaps the most splendid of all creatures... What we can know - because we can put ourselves in their place - is the horror of Adam and Eve as they heard the voice of God and witnessed the terrifying transformation of this once beautiful creature into the hissing, slithering, dangerous creature we know as the snake today. They must have recoiled in mortal fear, recognizing that God had every right to pronounce this same or more terrible judgment on themselves."

2) Woman: Pain

CURSE IS NOT SPOKEN ON WOMAN OR MAN – ONLY ON SERPENT, GROUND

EVIDENCE OF GOD'S MERCY - THEY WERE GUILTY
MERCY - EVE WOULD HAVE CHILDREN - PHYSICAL DEATH POSTPONED

SORROW & PAIN in AREA of WOMAN'S GREATEST FULFILLMENT - CHILDREN

PAIN IS A WAY OF LIFE - WORST MOMENT OF PHYSICAL PAIN - C/BIRTH

EXAMPLE OF RACHEL And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't be afraid, for you have another son." {18} As she breathed her last--for she was dying--she named her son Ben-Oni (son of my sorrow/trouble) Gen 35:16-18

MATTHEW SAYS 2000 YEARS LATER SHE IS STILL CRYING

Matthew 2:18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

JESUS SPEAKS OF MERCY OF FORGETTING THE PAIN

John 16:21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.

CALL FOR UNDERSTANDING / PATIENCE ON PART OF PARENTS -

Rebellion of children is result of our sinful nature inherited

OUR DUTY IS TO TRAIN THEM IN THE LORD

3) Man: Toil and Sweat MAN IS JUDGED LAST BECAUSE HE SINNED LAST

Genesis 3:17-19 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

1) Ground is cursed because of him

JUDGMENT NOT JUST PSYCHOLOGICAL - CHANGES THE WHOLE WORLD

HE WAS TO BE LORD OF THE EARTH - DOMINION - SPOILED HIS EARTH
IT WILL STILL PRODUCE WHAT IS GOOD- NOT W/OUT WEEDS & HARD WORK

2) Adam is condemned to a life of toil / sweat

BEFORE THIS WORK HAD BEEN A PLEASURE

Job 7:1,2 "Does not man have hard service on earth? Are not his days like those of a hired man? Like a slave longing for the evening shadows, or a hired man waiting eagerly for his wages"

3) There is an end to man's life - DISASTER NOT A RELEASE

JOHN PHILIPS "From that day to this the specter of death has haunted this planet. The very ground over which Adam worked reminded him daily that it was waiting to receive his remains. Death is a horrifying thing."

MARTIN LUTHER wrote at time of SO-CALLED RENAISSANCE
"the world is deteriorating from day to day"

ST. AUGUSTINE "City of God" - 400 AD / theological explanation of Fall of Rome
"Who can describe, who can conceive the number and severity of the punishments which afflict the human race - pains which are not only the accompaniment of the wickedness of godly men, but are a part of the human condition and the common misery - what fear and what grief are caused by bereavement and mourning, by losses and condemnations, by fraud and falsehood, by false suspicions, and all the crimes and wicked deeds of other men? For at their hands we suffer robbery, captivity, chains, imprisonment, exile, torture, mutilation, loss of sight, the violation of chastity to satisfy the lust of the oppressor and many other evils...What can seem safer than a man sitting in his chair? Eli the priest fell from his chair and broke his neck."

3. Relationship between Man and Woman

SATAN MIXTURE OF TRUTH IN LIES - eyes WERE opened
BEFORE THE FALL - they did NOT know evil
NOW THEY WERE LIKE GOD - KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL
GOD - loves good and hates evil / FALLEN CREATURES - love evil and hate good

PERFECT MARRIAGE / becomes a Painful Mess

a. Man: Irresponsible

ADAM STARTED BLAME GAME - EVE FOLLOWED HIM

Genesis 3:12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

ADAM WAS GIVEN COMMAND - HEAD OF FAMILY - MOST RESPONSIBLE

Genesis 2:15-17 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. {16} And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat

b. Woman: Dominant v. 16 "desire" GOOD THING? RIGHT? WRONG!

Genesis 3:16 Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

Genesis 4:7 sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

DESIRE = CONTROL

SO AS THE MAN FAILS TO TAKE UP HIS RESPONSIBILITY WOMAN SAYS
 "don't worry honey, I'll take care of it" / MAN THINKS "good now I don't have to do it"

ONLY CHRIST CAN GIVE MAN THE POWER TO BE RESPONSIBLE & SUBMIT
 Eph 5 Husbands, love your wives, just as X loved the church and gave himself up for her

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

GREATEST MERCY FROM GOD NOT SEEN IN GARDEN BUT ON CALVARY

MERCY NOT IN JUST WITHHOLD OUR PUNISHMENT - BUT IN SUFFERING IT

DID SIN BRING PAIN IN CHILDBIRTH??

No pain is equal to the pain He suffered to bring us to glory

DID SIN BRING CONFLICT??

He endured the greater conflict of sinners against Himself

DID THORNS COME WITH SIN?? Jesus was crowned with thorns

DID SIN BRING SWEAT?? Jesus sweat drops of blood in prayer for us

DID WE KNOW SORROW??

He was a "Man of Sorrows and familiar with suffering"

DO WE FEEL SHAME?? He endured the cross, despising the shame

DID SIN BRING DEATH?? Jesus tasted death for everyone

IN SHORT JESUS TOOK OUR CURSE - SO WE MIGHT BE SET FREE

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us,
 for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who hung on a tree."