

A History of Shame

By Barton Kizer

The society of traditional Japan is often used as an example of what is called a "shame society." Supposedly, the use of shame was the primary agent of social control, as opposed to guilt, which is said to be used more in the West. Empathy, identifying oneself with another, was highly valued in this society, and the Japanese were taught at an early age that fulfillment comes when you do your part for the whole. On the other hand, individualism was perceived as being selfish. The idea that one could make it on his own was heavily discouraged in this society. When one failed to complete his task he was ashamed because he failed the group. Thus, here is an example of a society that possessed a high awareness of shame.

However, shame wasn't first identified in Japan's culture. This feeling existed centuries earlier. During the first century Paul often wrote about shame. Concerning one's former life he stated that the Christian is "ashamed" of his past actions (Rom. 1:26). In Ephe-

sians 5:12 we are told that it is shameful to even speak of the "deeds of darkness" (v. 11). The idea of shame is heavily discussed in scripture, even prior to the coming of Christ. In the book of Proverbs we read of several practices a man should be ashamed of doing: "idleness" (10:5), "pride" (11:2), "lying" (13:5), "stubbornness" (13:18), "mistreatment of parents" (19:26), and "evil companions" (28:7). Shame is certainly a part of the Christian society, but it is not here to burden us with a negative and depressing existence. It aids us as we live and work in the kingdom of God.

Shame can be seen in many societies of the past, but can it be found in our present-day, secular culture? Jeremiah asked a similar question concerning Judah: "Were they ashamed because of the abomination they had done?" (8:12). As I often notice immodesty, pride, and individual-living, I pray that shame will soon be resurrected in our own culture.



The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Broken-Hearted Parents

By Mickey Galloway



Thought to Ponder

It's not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours.

Unfortunately in the past few weeks I have learned of two parents who are broken hearted over the practices of their children. In both cases local churches marked these children for their unfaithfulness. **Proverbs 17:21 & 25**, speaks of the pain of one whose child has gone away from the Lord. "He that begetteth a fool (doeth it) to his sorrow; And the father of a fool hath no joy ... A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her that bare him." Some of the greatest pain must be that of having a child who is away from the Lord. There is no more graphic expression of the wayward son than Absalom (2 Samuel 18). David's son had begun to compete with his father for the throne. He had gathered a following and pronounced himself king in Hebron and marched on Jerusalem. Not willing to have Jerusalem destroyed and the people killed, David fled over the mount of Olives with people throwing rocks at him, spiting at him and cursing him. With his friends he crossed the river Jordan over to Mahanaim. When the battle ensued,

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David said to his captains, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom" (2 Samuel 18:5). David knew he needed a victory, some had to die, but his heart went out to his son Absalom who was leading the rebellion against him. When the battle was over, word came that the battle had been won by David's forces, yet David was not really concerned about the nature of the battle or even the success that had been had in the field. His question was, "Is it well with the young man Absalom" (2 Samuel 18:29). David grieved over the death of his son, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would I had died for thee,

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Classes This Week

Sun 5:15 PM Kid's Class at the Bldg.	Sun Evening College Devo and Singing at the Pender's	Mon 7PM Ladies' Class at the Rouse's	Thur 7 PM Joshua Study ay Jillian and Hannah's
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Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Marsha (Toni Herd's Cousin)
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivan's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Lee (William Herd's Cousin)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)

February Birthdays

- 2 - Ken Sullivane
- 2 - Maghen Smith
- 2 - Wesley Herd
- 3 - Chris Long
- 5 - Mark Zeanah
- 5 - Josh Redden
- 6 - Jackson Fowler
- 8 - Grant Burton
- 13 - Megan McMurry
- 13 - Leslie Freeman
- 14 - Leighton Daniels
- 15 - Ella Miller
- 15 - Terria Burton
- 16 - Seth Humphrey
- 17 - A J Wilkerson
- 18 - Caralise Hunt
- 20 - Haley Chittam
- 20 - Lara West
- 23 - Lisa Lanier
- 24 - Jeff Jerkins
- 27 - Julie Johnson

News and Notes

- Our next Gospel Meeting will be Feb 27- Mar 3 with Alan Cornet
- Jim Bell from Harrisonburg, Virginia will be speaking this morning. We are supporting him in his work there!
- The Prattmont church will have a meeting Feb 6-8 with Harold Carswell
- Tim Morton is currently serving our country n Afghanistan. Please remember him in your prayers.
- Jon Coleman continues treatments and is receiving good reports.
- Hunter Crawford lost his grandfather this weekend.
- Let us welcome our visitors and encourage them to fill out a visitor's card.
- Audio CD's will be available in the foyer after each service.

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or E-mail: LarryRouse@aubeacon.com



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

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O Absalom, my son, my son" (2 Samuel 18:33).

Why do young people go astray, rebel and leave home? There are several reasons: Sometimes their homes are so bad they can't stay. Inconsistent discipline or unreasonable discipline may cause a child to leave home. Parents must learn the difference between abuse and the rod of correction (**Proverbs 22:15; cf Proverbs 29:15, 17**). Sometimes children leave because of chaos and confusion, bitterness between husband and wife, between children, between parents and children. Perhaps the home is so good it will not tolerate drugs and alcohol or immorality, homosexuality, pregnancy, or other unacceptable choices of their children. There are many reasons, sometimes it is the fault of parents, sometimes it is not. With David the fault was partially his. David's sin with Bathsheba had made him weak and had destroyed the respect not only of the heathen, but most certainly of his family. This hindered him from exercising the kind of discipline and control over his family that he should have.

What can we do for our young people? The apostle Paul, who considered himself Timothy's spiritual father, gave Timothy specific instructions and warnings to prevent him from casting aside his faith: 1) Be godly (**I Timothy 4:7-8**), devout and sincere in his faith rather than just going through the motions of Christianity; 2) Trust in God (**I Timothy 4:10**); 3) Be a faithful example to others in all areas of his life (**I Timothy 4:12**); 4) Be completely dedicated in his faith, as opposed to half-hearted service (**I Timothy 4:13-15**); 5) Take heed to himself and his doctrine, i.e., practice what you preach (**I Timothy 4:16**); 6) Flee sin and follow after righteousness (**I Timothy 6:11**); 7) Keep the commandments until the day of the Lord (**I Timothy 6:14**); 8) Not to be ashamed of his faith, nor the gospel; to be bold (**2 Timothy 1:8,11-14**); 9) Be diligent (**2 Timothy 2:15**).

Our children today need to hear and give heed to these things for indeed dangers are ever present. There is the danger of one's faith not being genuinely theirs. It is possible our children believe certain things just because Mom and Dad believe them, instead of having individual conviction that must be "learned" of God (**John 6:44-45**). True faith comes by the individual hearing and believing (**Romans 10:17**). There are too many who are not converted to Christ or else are in error simply because they choose to carry on the "family religion." Second, it's easy to take faithfulness for granted. Assuming that just because grandparents and parents were faithful, then children will be faithful too is a fallacy. "The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him" (**Ezekiel 18:20**). The Bible clearly teaches that one can fall from grace, no matter how good an environment he was reared in (**cf Galatians 5:4; 1 Corinthians 10:12**). Third, some never learn true commitment to Christ. They view being a Christian on the basis of having been baptized and attending worship services. However, for the church to be "subject to Christ" (**Ephesians 5:24**), means "to line-up under" and denotes complete submission and obedience to authority. Fourth, some fail to personally study God's Word for themselves. Christians, from the beginning, must "long for the spiritual milk..." (**1 Peter 2:2**), so they may grow in faith. Fifth, parents can become lax and will not be diligent in providing the proper spiritual training (**Ephesians 6:1-4**). Taking my children to worship, as important as that is, is no substitute for providing a godly atmosphere in the home with regular Bible study coupled with a good example. The "do as I say, not as I do" approach doesn't work in influencing our children to serve God.

We need to examine ourselves by the standard of God's word, both parents and children (**2 Corinthians 13:5**), and serve God out of personal conviction, continuing in spiritual growth (**2 Peter 1:5-10**).



Blinders Needed

By Andy Diestelkamp

The wearing of these garments reveals attitudes that range from naive to flaunting to seductive, regarding a part of the body whose erogenous (sexually stimulating) nature is well attested to in Scripture (**Prov. 5:19; Song of Sol. 1:13, 4:5, 7:3,7,8; Ezek. 23:3,21; Hos. 2:2**).

It is with some trepidation that I dare to discuss the anatomy of the human body, specifically that of the opposite sex. However, as a man who is trying to be pure in thought and as a father who is attempting to raise honorable sons and daughters, I am compelled to speak up about the amount of female breast that is being exposed these days.

My wife Karen and I were at a mall this past week and were amazed at how revealing the average woman's garments were. I am not exaggerating when I say that it was the exception to see a woman who was not showing some amount of cleavage. Often these revealing garments were also form fitting and so defined and accentuated the figure as to leave little to the imagination.

A casual perusal of the clothing stores reveals why this is so. From the advertising to the stock on hand, sensuality characterizes the fashions of the day. Everything from casual to dress to formal is designed to be "sexy." One cannot go through the young women's sections without feeling as if he has entered a lingerie department. Some might say my reaction to our recent trip to the mall reflects a naivete that suggests I need to get out more often. Au contraire, I think it would be better for me to pluck out my eye (**Matt. 5:29**)

In a world where camisoles are worn as

outerwear, the subjects of modesty, propriety, shamefastness, discretion, and chastity all sound kind of old-fashioned. Many have forgotten that the original and primary function of clothing is to cover one's nakedness (**Gen. 3:7-11, 21**), not to accentuate it. Yet much of the clothing being produced, pushed, and purchased for

public viewing is designed to emphasize, enhance, and increase one's sex appeal.

Clothing is a means of communication. Garments which expose the breasts show more than mammary glands. The wearing of these garments reveals attitudes that range from naive to flaunting to seductive, regarding a part of the body whose erogenous (sexually stimulating) nature is well attested to in Scripture (**Prov. 5:19; Song of Sol. 1:13, 4:5, 7:3,7,8; Ezek. 23:3,21; Hos. 2:2**). Conversely, the modestly adorned woman communicates meekness, respect, and good works (**1 Tim. 2:9,10; 1 Pet. 3:2-4**) and will be noticed and appreciated by honorable men.

Come on, ladies and sisters in Christ, teach the younger women (your daughters first and foremost) to be discreet and chaste (**Titus 2:5**); and lead them by example. Communicate propriety, godliness, and purity in your adornment. Your brothers in Christ would appreciate the help in the battle between flesh and spirit.

