

The Value of Shame
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Introduction: God has made man in a unique way. Unlike any of the animals we have a conscience.

- A. Our ability to be ashamed is a powerful tool in the Lord's hand.
 - 1. **Shame** - "A painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcoming, or impropriety which appears in the countenance by blushing."
 - 2. We do not like to feel shame because it is painful!
 - 3. It is better to feel the pain of our conscience **before** an action, that **after** an action!
- B. Our shame is a product of our teaching and experience, either good or bad!
(Rom 6:21-23)
- C. Why we need a study of shame.
 - 1. The concept of shame is rapidly being lost.
 - a. Even the world acknowledges a place for it: "You ought to be ashamed!"
 - b. Sadly there are those who teach us to be ashamed of good things.
(Isa 5:20-21) (Ex. Ridicule of morals on TV talk show.)
 - 2. Shame can help us change. **(1 Cor 6:5)**

I. Why Do Men Feel Shame?

- A. Because of the **knowledge we have of right and wrong.**
 - 1. It is very common for new converts to say: "I never knew that it was wrong!"
 - 2. Because of a lack of knowledge, they had no shame.
- B. Because of the **knowledge of others.**
 - 1. The **knowledge of other people.**
 - a. Many things are not shameful until others are present or have knowledge.
 - b. Women - Clothing, housekeeping.
 - c. Men - dirty car, foul-up at work.
 - 2. The **knowledge of God. (2 Cor 7:9-10)**
 - a. Example: Someone apologizing to men for taking God's name in vain.
 - b. How can we develop a greater knowledge of God's presence?
(2 Pt 1:5-7)
- C. Why do some men not feel shame?
 - 1. By continued wrongdoing the conscience is destroyed. **(Zeph 3:5)**
 - 2. By sinking deeper into sin. **(1 Tim 4:2; Eph 4:19)**
 - 3. Do you remember the first time that: You had a social drink? Smoked the first cigarette? Told a lie? Engaged in immorality? Ex. Shoplifting
 - 4. Have you ever asked of someone: "How did he/she get like that?"
 - 5. The conscience is like an alarm clock. How many no longer hear it?

II. How the conscience will affect our dress

- A. Our dress should reflect a good conscience. **(1 Tim 2:9-10) KJV**

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest** apparel, with **shamefacedness** and **sobriety**; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; {10} But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

1. **Modest** - (kosmios) - of good behaviour, well arranged, seemly.
2. **Shamefacedness** - (aidos) - perhaps ..through the idea of downcast eyes; a sense of shame or honor, modesty, bashfulness, reverence.
3. **sobriety** - (sophrosune) 1) soundness of mind 2) self-control

B. Nakedness should cause the painful emotion of shame!

1. (**Gen 2:25**) - Adam and Eve were naked when they had **no clothes**.
2. (**Gen 3:7, 10-11**) - They were **still naked** when they made the equivalent of men's swimming trunks!
3. (**Gen 3:21**) - They were no longer naked when God made them "tunics of skin". These are defined as: "generally with sleeves, coming down to the knees" (v. 21; Gesenius, Hebrew & Chaldee Lexicon, 420).
4. "God replaced their shorts with garments covering from the shoulders down to the knees to cover the shame of their nakedness."
5. (**Ex 28:41-42; Isa 47:2-3**) - God was very concerned with improper clothing that still left one naked! How much was covered? Look at the passages!
6. "I've been distracted more than once by a young sister as she reached for the communion tray while spilling out ... The real problem is when Dad and Mom are clueless as is the situation to which I referred; they're desensitized by their daughter's participation in cheerleading ...

C. God has also spoken on the length of hair for women and men. (**1 Cor 11:14-15**)

III. How the conscience will affect our actions.

A. In how we speak about and to our brethren. (**Jude 1:10; 2 Pt 2:12**)

1. Why does God call them "brute beasts?" They have no shame!
2. Public debates can be good or bad. What if we succeed in destroying the conscience in how we speak of others?
3. Consider the effect of e-mail and e-mail discussion groups.

"That was my e-mail personality. My real time personality is kind and gentle."

B. In dating we will avoid those things that destroy restraint. (**2 Tim 2:22**)

1. What is a proper display of affection and what is that which stimulates lusts?
2. What if you date someone who does not have a good conscience? Do not be surprised to be tested again to more and more compromise. (**2 Tim 3:6-7**)
3. This is a very strong test of your conscience. Why not date a Christian who also has a heart for God?
4. This is why Christians avoid the public dance, mixed swimming and such things.

C. We will tell the truth. (**Col 3:9; Eph 4:25**)

D. We will make things right! (**Mt 5:22-24**)

Conclusion: Are you looking to let God rule in your heart? (**Mt 5:8**)

A. We need each other to help test our hearts. (**Heb 10:23-25**)

B. Above all we need to bare our hearts to God and ask for help. (**Lk 1:6; Rev 3:2**)