

## The Value Of Shame Jeremiah 8:8-15

### God Made Man Unique

Unlike animals; we have a conscience.

Our ability to be ashamed is a powerful tool in the Lord's hand

Shame - "A painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcoming, or impropriety which results in blushing"

We do not like to feel shame because it is painful!

Better to feel pain of conscience before action, than after

A product of teaching and experience, either good or bad! - **Romans 6:21-23**

Why we need a study of shame - **Jeremiah 6:15; 8:12**

Concept of shame rapidly being lost. Yet, even world acknowledges a place for it: "You ought to be ashamed!"

Sadly there are those who teach us to be ashamed of good things. (Ex. Ridicule of morals on TV talk show) - **Isaiah 5:20-21**

Shame can help us change - **1Corinthians 6:5**

### Why Do We Feel Shame?

Because of the knowledge we have of right and wrong.

Common for new converts to say: "I never knew it was wrong"

Because of a lack of knowledge, they had no shame

Because of the knowledge of others

The knowledge of other people

Many things are not shameful until others are present or have knowledge

Women - clothing, housekeeping

Men - clothing, foul-up at work

The knowledge of God - **2Corinthians 7:9-10**

Example: Someone apologizing to men for taking God's name in vain

How can we develop a greater knowledge of God's presence? - **2Peter 1:5-7**

### Why do some men not feel shame?

By continued wrongdoing the conscience is destroyed - **Zephaniah 3:5**

By sinking deeper into sin - **1Timothy 4:2; Ephesians 4:19**

Do you remember first time you had a social drink? smoked the first cigarette? told a lie? engaged in immorality? Ex. Shoplifting

Have you ever asked: "How did he/she get like that?"

Conscience like an alarm clock. How many no longer hear it?

### How The Conscience Will Affect Our Dress

Our dress should reflect a good conscience - **1Timothy 2:9-10**

Modest - (kosmos) - of good behaviour, well arranged, seemly

Shamefacedness - (aidos) - perhaps ..through the idea of downcast eyes; a sense of shame or honor, modesty, bashfulness, reverence

sobriety - (sophrosune) 1) soundness of mind 2) self-control

Nakedness should cause the painful emotion of shame!

Adam and Eve were naked when they had no clothes - **Genesis 2:25**

They were still naked when they made equivalent of men's swimming trunks! - **Genesis 3:7,10-11**

They were no longer naked when God made them "tunics of skin" - **Genesis 3:21**

These are defined as: "generally with sleeves, coming down to the knees" (v. 21; Gesenius, Hebrew & Chaldee Lexicon, 420)

God replaced their "shorts" with garments covering from the shoulders to the knees to cover shame of their nakedness

God concerned with clothing that still left one naked! How much was covered? - **Exodus 28:41–42; Isaiah 47:2–3**

Sometimes distracted by a young sister as she reaches for the communion tray while spilling out ... The real problem is when Dad and Mom are clueless; they're desensitized by their daughter's participation in social activities

God has also spoken on length of hair for women and men resulting in shame - **1Corinthians 11:14–15**

### **The Conscience Will Affect Our Actions**

In how we speak about and to our brethren - **Jude 10; 2Peter 2:12**

Why does God call them “brute beasts?” They have no shame!

Public debates can be good or bad. What if we succeed in destroying the conscience in how we speak of others?

Consider the effect of social media

“That was my online personality. My real time personality is kind and gentle.”

In social relationships, things that destroy restraint will be avoided - **2Timothy 2:22**

What is a proper display of affection and what stimulates lust?

What if you date someone who does not have a good conscience? Don't be surprised to be tested again to more and more compromise - **2Timothy 3:6–7**

This is a very strong test of your conscience. A good reason to date a Christian who also has a heart for God?

One of the reasons Christians avoid public dance, mixed swimming and such things

We will tell the truth - **Colossians 3:9; Ephesians 4:25**

We will make things right - **Matthew 5:22–24**

### **Let God Rule In Your Heart?**

**Matthew 5:8**

We need each other to help test our hearts - **Hebrews 10:23–25**

Above all we need to bare our hearts to God and ask for help - **Luke 1:6; Revelation 3:2**

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