

4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:11-12 and 4:1-4. How can we grow to care more about what God thinks about us than what others think about us?

5. Read Luke 8:40-48. The woman's condition would have rendered her unclean. How does shame play a role in this story, and how does Jesus' response help when someone feels shame for something done to them?

6. Read Luke 15:20-24 and reread the quote by Gregg Ten Elshof (in the outline). How does this depiction of the Father's love and forgiveness help heal our shame?

Christian Sexuality—Jesus, Sex & Gender

"Shame & Forgiveness"

Hebrews 12:1-3

October 23/24, 2021

1. What is Shame?



2 Corinthians 7: ¹³ ...we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. ¹⁴ I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me.

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

Genesis 3: ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Judas

John 9

Luke 8

Luke 15

2. The _____ of Shame

- Shame sometimes _____ us and others.

"Their acts reveal a collapse of self-restraint. That in turn suggests a broader evaporation of conscience, the sense that doing something is wrong.... So when one asks how these men could behave so boorishly and monstrously, one answer is that they ... have ... no ... shame." (Daniel Henninger)

2 Samuel 11

- God can use shame as a check _____ light in our lives.

"I'd like to suggest that there is another kind of shame, akin to pain in our bodies, a natural indicator, a check engine light that signals that something is spiritually awry." (Tish Harrison Warren)

1 Corinthians 1: ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

3. God's _____ for Shame

God's antidote to the hiding that shame induces depends, in part, on where your shame is on the _____.

- If your shame is on the embarrassment side of the spectrum, God wants you to grow to care more about what he thinks about you and _____ about what people think about you.

1 Corinthians 4: ³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

- If your sense of shame persists, and it's still on the embarrassment side of the scale, look for the _____ behind the shame.
- If your shame is on the "I'm Defective" side of the spectrum, face the God who _____ toward you in your shame.

Luke 15: ²⁰ ... "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

"The maker of heaven and earth is in a full sprint—robes and all—to embrace you, kiss you, put a ring on your finger, and throw a feast in your honor. ...you are of immeasurable value to the One who matters most. You are so valuable that the God of the universe suffered the indignity of limited human form, betrayal, public humiliation, and naked crucifixion to rescue you not just from guilt, but also from the shame of your condition, all to enjoy an eternal life of friendship and communion with you." (Gregg Ten Elshof)

Luke 8:42-48 ("Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.")

Hebrews 12:1-3

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How would you define the word "shame"?
3. Read 2 Samuel 11. If David had a healthy sense of shame, how might that have helped to protect him, Bathsheba, Uriah, and Israel?