

A photograph of a long, straight street lined with bare trees at night. The street is shrouded in a thick, white fog that obscures the background. On the left side, several streetlights are visible, their warm yellow glow partially diffused by the fog. The trees are dark silhouettes against the lighter fog. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat somber.

# Shame

Jeremiah 6:15

“Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not ashamed at all; they did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be cast down,” says the LORD.

Jeremiah 6:15 NASB

# Definition

- A variety of words translate as “shame,” but each describes either a negative (disgraceful activity or self-hatred) or a positive (sense) – Jude 13; 1 Tim 2:9.
- The source of (legitimate) shame is sin, which is described in the story of the fall of mankind – Gen 2:25; 3:7–8; cf. 2:16–17; 3:1–6, 9–10.
- The code of shame (and honor) in Scripture usually does not match that of society – 2 Cor 4:2; cf. Phil 3:19.

# Distinction

- Since God reveals a unique code of shame, we must determine what is and is not shameful - Heb 5:12-14.
- Though the world tries to shame us for our allegiance to the following, we must never be ashamed of ...
  - Jesus the Christ - Mark 8:38//Luke 9:26; cf. 2 Tim 1:12.
  - the gospel - Rom 1:16; cf. 2 Tim 1:8; 1 Cor 1:18.
  - suffering - 1 Pet 4:16; cf. 2 Tim 1:12; Phil 1:20; Rom 8:17.
  - other (faithful) Christians - 2 Tim 1:16; cf. vv. 8, 12.

# Distinction

- We must never pride ourselves in any of these but always maintain a sense of shame concerning them:
  - Thoughtless and slanderous speech - Prov 18:13; Ps 40:15
  - Lack of discipline - Prov 13:18; 29:15; cf. 2 Thess 3:14
  - Sexual immorality - Rom 1:27; cf. Heb 13:4; Eph 5:3
  - Nakedness - Rev 3:18; 16:15; cf. 1 Tim 2:9; Sib. Or. 1.47-49
  - Role reversals - 1 Cor 11:6, 14-15; 14:34-35
- A stubborn refusal to recognize what is and is not shameful will result in shame, not glory - Hos 4:6-7.

# Decision

- We must identify what is honorable and what is shameful before the Lord and match our code of honor and shame to that of God – Rom 12:2; Phil 4:8.
- We must expose shameful activity in those around us so that they may not be disgraced when Jesus comes again – Eph 5:11–14; 2 Thess 3:14–15; cf. 1 Cor 4:14.
- We must endure “shame” from unbelievers if it means glory with Christ – 1 Pet 3:14–18a; cf. 2:12; Acts 5:41.

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 2:28-29 NASB