

## #2 THE DOCTRINE OF SHAME

### 30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW | DR. RANDY WHITE

#### WHO YOU ARE NOW AS A PERSON

- In sermon #1, we learned *who you are as a person*: you are created in the image and likeness of God.
- All humans are created in the image of God, and this has not changed with *the fall of man*.
- However, we do not fully understand our identity if we do not understand the *doctrine of shame*, a doctrine that is at the root of both our future hope and our present behavior.

#### PEOPLE TODAY ARE TAUGHT TO HAVE SHAME

- If someone behaves in a way that is socially unacceptable, they will be told, “have you no shame?”
- One of the great turns of American history (now mostly forgotten) was when Joseph Welch asked Joseph McCarthy, “Have you no sense of decency, sir?”
- We fully understand ourselves when we know where we got this overwhelming desire to *cover ourselves*.

#### THE SHAME FACTOR | GENESIS 2:25 AND GENESIS 3:7-13

- The Bible makes an unusual and stark comment on Adam and Eve related to their *lack of shame* in Genesis 2:25.
  - This verse is unnecessary to the creation narrative.
  - This verse is unnecessary to the marriage narrative.
  - This verse is “shamefully” inappropriate for mixed audiences.
  - The astute reader must recognize that *there must be a doctrinal reason for this most unusual verse!*
- As soon as they ate from the fruit of the forbidden tree, **they sewed fig leaves together** (Gen. 3:7).
  - Jewish rabbinical teaching is that the fig tree was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and “With that which they had sinned, they were rectified”<sup>1</sup>

- Such teaching cannot be confirmed, but there is a Biblical pattern that the solution to sin becomes the covering for sin (compare Num. 21:6-8 and 2 Cor. 5:21).
- In v. 8, Adam and Eve **hid themselves** (having already covered themselves).
- In vv. 9-13, Adam and Eve *point fingers* to vindicate themselves.
- Since that time, almost all of human behavior can find its motivation in *covering, hiding, and vindicating* ourselves.

#### A SOLUTION PROVIDED BY GOD | GENESIS 3:21-24

- God provided two gracious acts for *ashamed Adam*:
  - God provided a more adequate covering (Gen. 3:21)
    - This covering required the shedding of blood.
    - This covering was a substitute of *the innocent for the guilty*.
      - If the fig tree was the forbidden tree, then the fig leaf was *covering up by that which condemned*.
      - The skins, however, was *covering up by that which was innocent*, and thus pointed to Jesus Christ as our substitute.
  - God removed them from the tree of life (Gen. 3:22-24).
    - To live forever with only a *covering* for shame would be a curse far beyond the curse of death.
- God later provided a *wholeness* that releases us from the motivation of shame.
  - We regularly say that Jesus was “bearing our sin and our *shame*” on the cross.
  - Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus **endured the cross, despising the shame**.
  - Today, we are *unashamed* because we are “in Christ,” Who is our covering.
- God is going to provide an *ultimate solution* to shame.
  - Zephaniah 3:11
  - Isaiah 45:17, 54:4
  - Joel 2:26-27
  - Romans 9:33

#### THE TAKEAWAY

- Do you find yourself: *covering, hiding, or vindicating* yourself?
- It is time to lose *embarrassment* and rest in *covering* that has been provided.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.chabad.org/library/bible\\_cdo/aid/8167/jewish/Chapter-3.htm#showrashi=true](https://www.chabad.org/library/bible_cdo/aid/8167/jewish/Chapter-3.htm#showrashi=true)