

Shame – Week 5

The World's System: Self-Worth = Performance + Other's Opinions

God's Approach: Self-Worth = God's Truth about You

The Lie: "I am what I am. I cannot change. I am hopeless."

"Too often our self-image rests solely on an evaluation of our past behavior, being measured only through a memory. Day after day, year after year, we tend to build our personalities on the rubble of yesterday's personal disappointments."

- Robert McGee

**So I wish that there were some wonderful place,
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes, and all our heartaches,
And all of our poor selfish grief,
Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat at the door,
And never put on again.**

- Louise Fletcher Tarkington

God's Truth: Regeneration

The word often used to denote the restoration of a thing to its pristine state, its renovation, as a renewal or restoration of life after death

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

“Regeneration consists in the implanting of the principle of the new spiritual life in man, in a radical change of the governing disposition of the soul, which, under the influence of the Holy spirit, gives birth to a life that moves in a Godward direction. In principle this change affects the whole man: the intellect, the will, and the feelings or emotions.”

- Louis Berkhof

WHAT?

We were spiritually dead...

Colossians 2:13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh...

THEN WHAT?

But, if we are in Christ, we have a new birth.

Colossians 2:13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

John 3:3-8 Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.' 4 Nicodemus said to him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?' 5 Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Ephesians 2:1, 4-5 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins... But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--

SO WHAT?

We are new creations.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

I don't have to live in the past.

What I am is not what I was, nor is it what I will be.

There is a huge difference in being broken over your sin and broken by your sin.

Ephesians 4:24 ...Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true **righteousness and holiness.**

How long has Jesus been around?

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58).

"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).

So then, we can say, without reservation, that Jesus is eternal.

Next question...

How long as He been righteous?

Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true (Ps. 119:142).

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

How long? Since time immemorial, He has been perfectly righteous and pleasing to God.

Final question...

What has He given to us through His sacrifice?

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). (See also Rom. 5:12-21.)

Through the Cross, you have been given Christ's eternal righteousness.

Your sins are dealt with.

All of them: past, present and future.

Our sins have been dealt a death blow.

They are cast away...

He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19).

Washed clean...

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool" (Is. 1:18).

Removed...

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us (Ps. 103:12).

Forgotten...

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more" (Heb. 10:17).

So now, when God looks at you, He sees the eternal righteousness of Christ Himself.

God does not see your past in light of your sin; He sees your past and Christ's past as the same.

God did not just give you a new future at salvation, but a new past as well.

He gave you the eternally-pleasing and perfectly-righteous past of Jesus. This is why we sometimes hear the concept of justification explained as being, "God seeing us just as though we had never sinned."

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Cor. 5:16-17).

God sees you now through the blood of His only Son...holy, blameless and above reproach.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him... (Col. 1:19-22).

Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Romans 6:10-13 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

The fact that I have a new life shows something that is decisive. Too often we live as degenerates instead of regenerates.

I have ceased to live in a certain way. I am not to present my body as an instrument of unrighteousness but as a living sacrifice. You realize that you will do one or the other.

You will glorify God or gratify self.