

The Shame of the Cross

Shame is a very raw, acute, and distressing feeling. We experience shame when we're humiliated by our own sinful behavior. Jesus had no sin, yet he too knew shame—the shame of the cross. It's another aspect of the cross that will help us comprehend the fullness of Jesus' sacrifice. Together we'll discuss the relationship between sin and shame in Scripture. We'll study passages that help us revisit how Jesus experienced shame and unpack why it was necessary for our salvation.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is shame? What causes shame? Identify a couple of examples of shame in your own life or in a book or movie.
- If you've confessed a sin and been forgiven, do you need to still feel shame? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [The Shame of the Cross](#)

READ [Isaiah 53:1-3](#), [Philippians 2:5-8](#), [Genesis 2:25](#), [Genesis 3:7-10](#), [Hebrews 12:1-3](#), [1 Peter 2:4-6](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss the shame inherent to Roman crucifixions and the shame Christ experienced during his lifetime. Why was it necessary for Christ to endure this shame in order for his death to accomplish our salvation?
- How does thinking about and reflecting on the role of shame in the story of Adam and Eve help you think about the way you/we experience shame today?
- In segment 2, Scott notes that, as a result of sin, Adam and Eve needed something “to hide their dirty hearts.” Consider and reflect on what Darrell said next: *“That’s where the shame comes in...I’m sorry for what I did, but I’m also sorry for who I am. So shame actually goes against the image of God, that he made us in, because we were created to have no shame. We were created to be fully open, fully transparent, but when sin entered into this world as a foreign ingredient, a contaminant, then we couldn’t be proud of who we were anymore. So we tried to hide it with figurative fig leaves: with achievements, with status, with riches, with education, with the things we try to achieve for ourselves. We still try to cover the shame. But we can’t wash it away, we can’t ignore it. That’s why we need the Lord.”* What part of Darrell’s statement struck you most profoundly? Why?
- In [Romans 10:11](#), the Apostle Paul writes, “As Scripture says, ‘Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.’” What does that mean? How do you explain the shame we experience during our earthly lives?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Genesis 9:18-27](#), [Psalm 51](#), [Isaiah 61](#), [Psalm 34:4-5](#), [Romans 10:11](#)

CONCLUSION

Consider Scott's closing illustration of the man who worried about the shame of watching a film of his life on judgment day. Think of the moments in your life that bring you shame (if you are a visual person, write those moments down or sketch images of them). Reread [Hebrews 12:1-3](#), [1 Peter 2:4-6](#), and [Romans 10:11](#) (if you wrote down or drew images of your shame, burn the paper as you read the passages). Be assured that God will not play a film of your life on judgment day. You will never need to relive your shame on judgment day. How does that make you feel?

Choose one of the above verses and write it out. Place it on your mirror, in your car, on your phone—some place you will see it daily this week. Each time you see it, say a prayer of thanksgiving that Christ humbled himself and endured the shame of the cross so that you have the assurance of salvation and the confidence that God will never put you to shame.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/the-shame-of-the-cross>

Printed on February 6, 2025