

SHAME, ISN'T IT?

Genesis 2:25 - Life before sin could be described as having “no anger” or “no fear” but the author chooses to focus on “no shame.”

The ideal world is one where we have nothing to hide.

Genesis 3:7-10 - Sin causes shame, shame causes us to hide.

Adam and Eve scramble to cover themselves.

In the aftermath, they blame God and one another.

Shame is the great disconnecter, fracturing our relationships.

It's both the **byproduct** of sin and the **cause** of more sin.

Jesus came to release us from sin and shame, to bring us out of hiding.

CAN YOU COVER ME?

Atonement = “at-one-ment”, to reconcile a rift, to cover over

Think of asking, “Can you cover me?” when you forget money.

There's a cost to be covered, and my failure carries an outstanding balance until someone covers over that debt.

Genesis 3:21 - Sin causes **rift**, rift causes **shame**,
God covers shame by way of **sacrifice**.

The sacrificial system in the Old Testament is an upsetting hurdle for many people. Why would God choose to atone through such a bloody system?

The idea is that the life of an innocent animal covers for your wrong (see Leviticus 17:11). This is rich symbolism, but it's also foreign to us.

This is not about appeasing God's wrath.

Rather, God is interested in shaping and transforming His people.

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A TABERNACLE WORLDVIEW

There are four things that the sacrificial system was meant to teach:

1. God wants to draw near. (Exodus 25:8)

God's ultimate desire is not judgment; it's relationship.

2. Sin has a cost.

Because God is just, He can't just turn a blind eye to sin.

3. That cost is serious.

Sin introduces death into this world, and I'm a contributor.

4. God wants to atone.

An animal dying doesn't teach that God wants to punish sinners.

In fact, it communicates just the opposite! He wants to cover over your sin some other way. So He gives a substitute.

Sacrifice develops a worldview where people are faced with the gravity of the choices they make, while still experiencing the grace of God.

John 1:29 - God has given an atonement for us, once for all. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, our sins are remembered no more (Hebrews 10:17).

All you need to do is **(1) Repent**, and **(2) Receive**. You recognize your need for grace and accept that Jesus' sacrifice really does cover for you.

COVERED WITH CHRIST

There are ideas about salvation that sound like the Gospel, but they are counterfeits. The most common one is that good works earn you salvation.

The Bible teaches the exact opposite—see Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9.

The Gospel is not a to-do list. It's a finished work.

Jesus has accomplished what we never could.

Our good works are inadequate coverings to say the least (Isaiah 64:6).

Instead, we can be **clothed with Christ** (Galatians 3:26-27).

We don't try to hide behind our good works. Rather, we are hidden in His.

*Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered. (Psalm 32:1)*

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