

Shame by Association

Lets first start by again defining Shame

What is Shame?

The word has overtones of being or feeling worthless. Strong's concordance says it is, "The feeling and the condition, as well as its cause."

In other words not just doing something shameful but *feeling* shameful or worthless.

Webster says, "SHAME is a painful feeling caused by the consciousness or exposure of unworthy or indecent conduct or circumstances:"

I believe shame is a spirit from the devil and it tells us because of:

- What we were told we are
- Because of what we did
- Because of what or who **we have been associated with**

That we will never have the kind of life God wants us to have, that we are just a big nothing.

You are not a big nothing, in Christ you are a child of God, a woman of God.

Last lesson was on ***Shame by Action***. This means you did something wrong, you missed the mark, you sinned.

This lesson goes even deeper. Shame can come from what you did wrong or could be simply what you are connected with. What others or yourself, identify yourself with, which gives you, **in your eyes your identity with.**

We call this Shame by Association.

Lets first define Shame by Association

It is an idea, image, feeling, etc., suggested by or connected with something other than itself; an accompanying thought, emotion, or the like; an overtone or connotation: *My associations with that painting are of spring like days.*

See what are you connected with.

There are different kinds of shame by association,

1 The color of your skin.

2 Shame among family members, kids, husband, siblings, and other relatives. They did something wrong.

3 The lack of education, poverty, you are one of those kind, that can include what you wear, what you drive, or what you live in.

4 How you were treated by others, husband, kids friends and employers.

5 What you look like , your size, your hair etc.

remember God made you.

Always

Psalm 139:14

(BBE) I will give you praise, for I am strangely and delicately formed; your works are great wonders, and of this my soul is fully conscious.

(CJB) I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders - I know this very well

(MSG) I thank you, High God--you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration--what a creation!

The best story of shame by association is the story of the women at the well

Reference John 4: 1-30

Three ways she was connected with shame?

- She was a Samaritan : **her race**
- She had and was in sin: **her disgrace**
- By the other woman: **her peers**

But Jesus connected with her and by him connecting with her it freed her from the associations that shamed her.

- Jesus asked a drink of her.
- He let her know he knew who she was and what she did.
- But He also let her know who He was.

He gave her the ability to make a different connection.

We need to find our identity in Christ, not in what we are associated with.

We associate with Christ because He first associated with us.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

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