

Who could bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who justifies.

Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or **nakedness**, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, "For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

*No, **in all these things, we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:33-39)*

***They were both naked**, the man and his wife, and were **not ashamed**. (Genesis 2:25)*

Shame refers to a sense of **loss of personal value, worth** and even **identity**. The word 'naked' here has far more to do with **willing vulnerability** and **freedom from all fear** than it has to do with physical condition. Because **humans** by design **reflect whatever they believe God** their Creator is like, identity is **directly linked** to remaining **dependent and connected** to the true **Origin of all identity**, the God whose name is **the I AM**. This dependency design is meant to **amplify the glory** of God's **selfless love** and **passionate serving disposition** refracted through His beloved sons and daughters who collectively compose the **bride of Christ**. Therefore there is **no legitimate place for any shame** whatsoever in the life of the believer embracing their **true identity defined by God alone**.

Shame simply did **not exist in the human psyche** from the beginning of creation. Our first parents knew nothing about shame until their tragic choice to **switch their identity source** from God's words over them to **believing the father of lies** masquerading as their friend and ally but with **hidden sinister motives to exploit** their **most precious asset** – their **innocence** and **child-like transparency**.

*When **the woman** saw that the tree was **good for food**, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was to be **desired to make one wise**, she took of the fruit of it, and ate; and she gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. The eyes of both of them were opened, and **they knew that they were naked**. They sewed fig leaves together, and **made themselves aprons**.*

***They heard** the voice of Yahweh **God walking in the garden** in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife **hid themselves from the presence** of Yahweh God among the trees of the garden.*

*Yahweh **God called** to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"*

*The man said, "**I heard** your voice in the garden, and **I was afraid, because I was naked**; and I hid myself."*

*God said, "**Who told you that you were naked?** Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" (Genesis 3:6-11)*

The **most important question** that could have expedited their recovery was **ignored because of shame**. If either Adam or Eve had pushed past their fears to **honestly respond to this question**, history could have been radically different. But the lies of the enemy had already **instilled a counterfeit mindset** that **denied love**, inducing **fear of punishment** and presumed all sorts of **dark suspicions** about God's disposition towards them. They were **now afraid** of their only Source of love and life, and this **vacancy** left them feeling **terrified of retribution** that is **not in God's heart** but is a construct of the father of **lies to inhibit us** from embracing the truth that alone can restore us to freedom.

God is the source of all light, all truth, all love, all life and all identity. Switching away from Him to a different source leaves us feeling never good enough, never loved, never protected enough and fearful of punishment, because that is how Satan leads us to see God. So when the **Source of light, love and truth** appears, the **reaction** of the sinner is **always allergic**. Until **truth** is embraced – truth both about **our condition** as well as about **our true design** and **God's true disposition** towards us – the **reality we filter** everything through is a dark counterfeit that **distorts everything** to mean God is **sinister, harsh, arbitrary or distant** and uncaring. Either way, **God's presence turn into torment** for all who cling to the **lies of shame and condemnation** and anything that induces fear of the Almighty.

This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and doesn't come to the light, lest his works would be exposed.

But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his works may be revealed, that they have been done in God." (John 3:19-21)

Jesus the Son of God is the **light** and the **word** of God that was sent into this world **to save us, not to condemn** anyone. This **word and light exposes everything hiding** in the darkness and deceptiveness caused by the matrix of lies the enemy has tightly woven all around this planet. And **this light is so invasive that nothing can be hidden** from its penetrating rays.

*Let us therefore give diligence to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. For **the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but **all things are naked and laid open** before the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

*Having then a great high priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us **hold tightly to our confession.** For we don't have a high priest who can't be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but one who has been in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore **draw near with boldness** to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may **find grace** for help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:11-16)*

Why are these two **topics so closely connected** here in Hebrews? What does **penetrating word** have to do with our having a **great high priest** on the throne of grace in heaven? Because it has everything to do with our **need to dispense with shame** and fear in order to recover boldness in the presence of God.

*Therefore let us also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **lay aside** every weight and the **sin which so easily entangles** us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy** that was set before him endured the cross, **despising shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

As the second Adam, **Jesus replaces Adam as the template** of our former identity as sinners. Jesus **displaces Satan** as our heavenly **representative** so we now have **one of 'us'** on the very throne of the universe who **experientially fully understands** everything we feel and is **always on our side**. Jesus most importantly is the **antidote for shame**, one of the sins which most **easily entangles** and **inhibits** us from **freely and joyfully running** the race to **reconnect** to our heavenly Father's **arms of love**.

*'Because **you say**, "I am **rich**, and have become **wealthy**, and have **need of nothing**," and **you do not know** that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and **naked**, I advise you to **buy from Me** gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and **white garments** so that you may clothe yourself, and that **the shame** of your nakedness will **not be revealed**; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. (Revelation 3:17-19 NAS95)*

*But remember the former days, in which, after you were enlightened, you endured a great struggle with sufferings; partly, **being exposed** to both reproaches and oppressions; and partly, **becoming partakers with those who were treated so**. For you both had compassion on me in my chains, and **joyfully accepted the plundering** of your possessions, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an enduring one in the heavens.*

*Therefore don't throw away **your boldness**, which has a great reward. For **you need endurance** so that, having done the will of God, you may receive the promise. "In a very little while, he who comes will come, and will not wait. But **the righteous will live by faith**.*

*If he **shrinks back**, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are **not of those who shrink back to destruction**, but of **those who have faith to the saving of the soul**. (Hebrews 10:32-39)*

*To you, Yahweh, do I lift up my soul. My God, **I have trusted in you**. **Don't let me be shamed**. Don't let my enemies triumph over me. **Yes, no one who waits for you shall be shamed**. They shall be shamed who deal treacherously without cause.*

***Show me** your ways, Yahweh. **Teach me** your paths. **Guide me** in your truth, and teach me, For **you are the God of my salvation, I wait for you all day long**.*

*Yahweh, **remember your tender mercies and your loving kindness**, for they are from old times.*

***Don't remember the sins** of my youth, nor my transgressions.*

***Re-member me** according to your loving kindness, **for your goodness' sake**, Yahweh. (Psalms 25:1-7)*