

“Ashamed”

Rom. 1:16; 6:21

Introduction:

- A. Paul, in same book, says we both ought and ought not to be ashamed.
- B. Church suffering today from both a lack of shame and too much shame.
 - 1. Causing us to be *ineffective* in reaching the lost in the world.
 - 2. Causing us to be *indifferent* toward many spiritual activities.
 - 3. Causing us to be *ignorant* of basic Bible truth and its application.
- C. Let's notice two aspects of the subject of being ashamed:

Discussion:

I. There Are Times When We *Ought To Be Ashamed, But Are Not* (6:21).

- A. This was ancient Judah's problem (Jer. 6:15; 8:12).
- B. This is modern society's problem — both in and out of the church.
 - 1. Reflected by our appearance.
 - a. Immodest apparel. (1 Tim. 2:9 KJV).
 - b. Public nakedness or nearly so. (Rev. 3:18; cf. Gen. 2:25; 3:7; 3:21).
 - c. Some hair styles. (1 Cor. 11:6,14)
 - 2. Reflected by all kinds of lasciviousness — words and gestures. (cf. Eph. 5:12).

II. There Are Times When We *Ought Not Be Ashamed, But Are*. (1:16)

A. Let us not be ashamed of the “*gospel of Christ*.” (Rom. 1:15,16).

- 1. The world has perverted the gospel of Christ. (Gal. 1:7).
 - a. The gospel according to various denominations and TV evangelists.
 - b. The “gospel of Christ” suggest these off-brands of gospel to many.
- 2. The word of God still calls it “the gospel of Christ”.
 - a. Not ashamed to represent it as the gospel of Christ. (1 Cor. 9:16-18).
 - b. Not ashamed to represent it as power of God unto salvation from sin and hell.
 - (1) Too often presented as answer to man temporal needs and aspirations.
 - (2) Too often presented as formula for earthly happiness and ease.
 - (a) Such takes focus off real problem and need — sin and salvation.
 - (b) Such distorts reality of Christian's life — in world will have tribulation.

B. Let us not be ashamed of the “*name of Christ*”. (1 Pet. 4:14-16).

- 1. The world has perverted the name of Christ. (cf. Matt. 24:5).
 - a. “Christ” and “Christian” are badly abused.
 - b. Terrible acts done daily by “Christians(?)” in name of Christianity.
- 2. The word of God still speaks of “Christ” and “Christians” (cf. Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16).
 - a. Shall we be ashamed to talk about being of Christ because of abuses?
 - b. Shall we avoid the name “Christian” because of these abuses?

C. Let us not be of the “*church(es) of Christ*”. (Rom. 16:16).

- 1. The world has perverted the “church(es) of Christ”.
 - a. It has been denominationalized, institutionalized and fractionalized.
 - b. It has been completely misunderstood and misrepresented by own members.
- 2. The word of God still speaks of “churches of Christ” and “church of God”.
 - a. The “God” in “church of God” is Christ — “HIS blood” (Acts 20:28).
 - b. Abuse and misunderstanding abandon use than is for gospel or name.
 - c. It can be referred to in other ways — so can gospel and Christians.
- 3. The efforts to conceal identity as “church of Christ” from public a problem.
 - a. Signs, other advertisement and personal work techniques obvious efforts.
 - (1) Do not doubt their sincerity.
 - (2) Kind of sympathize with their problem
 - b. Such efforts create some serious problems that need to be considered
 - (1) Craftiness and guile. (2 Cor. 4:2).

- (2) Honesty (honorable) tactics in sight of all. (Rom. 12:17, cf. “bait & switch”)
- (3) We may get caught by own craftiness. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:19).
 - (a) “Independent” or “non-denominational” easily misunderstood.
 - i) 26 “independent” churches in B`ham phone book.
 - ii) 18 “non-denominational” churches.
 - (b) “Christians meet here” subject to same misunderstandings.

Conclusion:

- A. We need to be ashamed of some things that we are not.
- B. We need to be happy to be identified with gospel, name or church of Christ.
 - 1. Making sure we understand and live up to what terms suggest.
 - 2. Trying our best to explain their Scriptural meaning to others.