

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY ([Jeremiah 3:25](#))

"We lie down in our [shame](#) and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and [have not obeyed](#) the voice of the LORD our God."

A Place for *Shame*



Shame: relational warning. Adam and Eve at the beginning of creation were created in the image of God ([Genesis 1:27](#)) and created very good ([Genesis 1:31](#)). Since God has emotions, we too were created as beings with emotions. Our emotions serve as channels through which we assess the quality of, and experience the content of relationships. The emotion of shame was displayed first after Adam and Eve sinned ([Genesis 2:25](#), [Genesis 3:10](#)). After they disobeyed God, their nakedness caused them discomfort and embarrassment. The shame felt by Adam and Eve was not solely due to their lack of clothing, but to a feeling of discomfort in being exposed before a righteous and Holy God against whom they had sinned. Emotionally, Adam and Eve were able to assess and experience the quality and content of their relationship with God, the resulting emotion was shame. This expression of shame was an emotional indicator within their soul, which signaled the awareness of their unapproved behaviors, leading to a sense of unworthiness.

Shame: appropriate today. Although there was no shame before Adam and Eve sinned, shame is now an appropriate response in a world in which sin abounds. Similar to how a citizen may feel a sense of guilt because they have broken the law, those who had not seared (burned, destroyed) their conscience to the ways of God, will feel shame when their actions are not appropriate in the sight of God ([Jeremiah 3:25](#)). Unfortunately, we live in a world in which humanity pushes itself even further away from God and therefore does not see the appropriateness of shame ([Romans 1:24](#)). As a result, various varieties of sin, and an assortment of rebellious lifestyles are shamelessly promoted. Shame has a place; imagine if Peter after denying Jesus had *shamelessly* demanded forgiveness from Jesus ([John 21:17](#)). Or imagine if the prodigal son had strutted back proudly and shamelessly to his father instead of returning humbly in a state of shame and humility ([Luke 15:19](#)).

Shame: relationship restorer. While shame has an appropriate role in pricking our conscience, our heavenly Father does not desire us to stay in a place of emotional distance and unworthiness. Shame should lead us to confession; agreeing with God that what we did was wrong. Confession should lead us to repentance; turning away from sin. And repentance should lead us to reconciliation; fellowship with Jesus. Shame works best when it is motivated by the inner work of the Holy Spirit within the believer and not the external sense of condemnation by others ([John 8:11](#)). Let us allow the emotion of shame to trigger us to know when we are not living appropriately in the sight of God, and let us work to regain a very good relationship with God just as it was in the beginning.

-Your brother in Christ, WNL

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Shame allows us to sense emotionally
God's disapproval of our sinful behaviors.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for the emotional thermostat of shame which makes me aware when my relationship with you is not in a very good place. Lord, help me to not become numb to this feeling but allow me to let shame lead me to the Savior. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



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