

Three Cups of Shame



Do you know what a deer tick is? It is a mean, nasty insect. If you are walking down an American country road, or through a field, it will attach itself to you. It is an ugly little parasite that gets its head down under your skin and lives there. It sucks on your blood and eventually, the spot where it is living becomes irritated and begins to hurt. The only way to kill it is to burn it or smother it so it cannot breathe. Then you can remove it and be healed. If you do not kill it, the irritation festers and grows. It is an unwanted hitchhiker that becomes a continuous irritant and must be dealt with.

WARNING!

You may have a particularly nasty little hitchhiker going through life with you. He may be just like a deer tick -- under your skin, irritating you at every step you take. This hitchhiking parasite may have been sucking your blood for a long time! Imagine an experience like this:

You pick up a hitchhiker as you are driving down the road. All the hitchhiker wants to talk about are the mistakes, the misery and the sins of your past. This guy has attached himself to you and you are stuck with him.

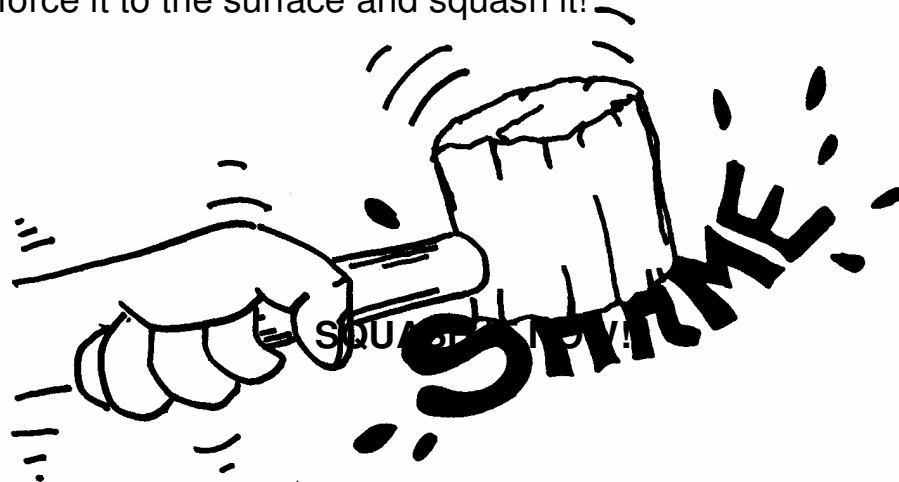
“Hey, I bet you really have some juicy sins in your past. Hey, did your father abuse you when you were little? Hey, did you cheat on your partner before the divorce? Hey did your ex-spouse leave you because you were not a good enough marriage partner. Hey, did you fail in school? Hey, **you ought to be ashamed.**”

Can you imagine what an unpleasant experience it would be, to be stuck with that kind of a person as you go on down the road? Ask yourself... Do you have a hitchhiker under your skin, whose name is shame?

Shame may be defined as a sense of humiliation, dishonor, and worthlessness brought on by the actions of others or by your own actions. It is a loss of self-worth and self-respect, which causes feelings of self-contempt and disgrace. It can be a feeling of disgust about yourself that will not leave you.

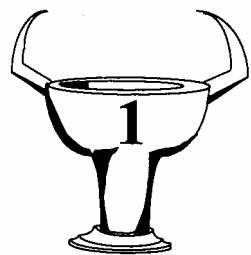
For a believer, shame is snare from the pit of Hell! Shame is not guilt. Guilt is when you know that you have made a mistake and sinned, causing God or some other person to be grieved or hurt. Shame is when you think you are the mistake!

If shame has attached itself and is hitchhiking ON YOU, now is the time to force it to the surface and squash it!



THREE CUPS OF SHAME

The devil wants to serve you three cups of shame. They are filled with poison! Unlike the living waters that God wants you to drink, these are drinks that will turn your insides. Let's look at the three cups of shame that Satan loves to serve you.



The first kind of shame we are going to look at is the shame that you may feel because of...

SOMETHING THAT WAS DONE TO YOU BY SOMEBODY ELSE!

From Genesis 34:1-7

*“Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, **and violated her**. His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob.... And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; so Jacob held his peace until they came... And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done*

a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done."

Like Dinah, you may have been the victim of some degrading act of physical, verbal or sexual abuse. These kinds of humiliating, violent acts leave their victims with memories and emotions that say they were dirty and used. When it was all over, Dinah must have felt like that. She must have seen herself as an object of shame, contempt and disgrace. It was a terrible cup to have to drink of!

Do you feel like a Dinah? Remember, when the devil (using your memories and emotions) tries to accuse you and tempt you into believing his lies, speak the Word to him! That's what Jesus did.

Devil it is written:

(Joel 2:26-27 NKJV) "You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame."

(Romans 8:1 NKJV) "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."



The Second Cup:

What you may feel because of...

WHAT YOU DID TO SOMEBODY ELSE!

From Genesis 38:12-26 (God's Word Translation)

(Paraphrase of the First Part)

There was a man named Judah whose son had died. Judah told his son's widow, whose name was Tamar, to live as a widow until his other son, Shelah was old enough to marry her. However, when Shelah had grown up, Judah did not do as he promised Tamar, so she remained without a husband.

Tamar decided to get revenge by humiliating Judah. She dressed herself as a prostitute, covered her face and waited on the road until Judah walked by. When he approached her, he did not recognize her, and she enticed him into her bed. Afterwards, they agreed that she would receive a young goat as payment, which he would send her. She demanded his signet ring, cord and

shepherd's staff as security until he could send her the goat. He agreed and gave them to her.

(From the Scriptures - The Remaining Verses)

{Verse 20}“Judah sent his friend Hirah to deliver the young goat... but his friend couldn't find her... {22} So he went back to Judah and said, ‘...There's no prostitute here.’ {23} Then Judah said, ‘Let her keep what I gave her, or we'll become a laughingstock. After all, I did send her this young goat, but you couldn't find her.’ {24} About three months later Judah was told, ‘Your daughter-in-law Tamar has been acting like a prostitute. What's more, because of it she's pregnant.’ Judah ordered, ‘Bring her out to be burned.’ {25} As she was brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law, ‘I'm pregnant by the man who owns these things. See if you recognize whose signet ring, cord, and shepherd's staff these are.’”

Judah and Tamar used each other in a way contrary to God's Word. Perhaps you have done the same. Have you taken advantage of someone? (not just sexually) Were your actions shameful and dishonorable? Have you accepted shame is a fitting garment, a garment of heaviness -- a straight jacket of unworthiness? Shame is nothing more than a hitchhiking spirit! The word of God instructs us to put on a “*garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness*” (Isaiah 61:3). That hitchhiking spirit of shame that is under your skin must go, in Jesus' name.

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”



The Third Cup:

What you may feel because of...

YOUR SIN AGAINST YOURSELF!

In our previous example, Judah and Tamar not only brought shame on each other, but each also brought it upon themselves. Often, the three cups of shame Are mixed into one big, toxic drink!

From Luke 15:11-24

(Paraphrase of the First Part)

There was a young man who demanded his inheritance from his father and then went away to waste it all on a sinful, self-

destructive lifestyle. He ended up destitute and without hope. He barely survived by feeding another man's pigs.

(From the Scriptures - The Remaining Verses)

(Verse 17) "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! {18a, 19} I will arise and go to my father, and will say... 'I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.' {20} And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. {21} And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' {22} But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. {23} And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; {24} for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry."

This is a particularly bitter cup to drink from.

Have you been the cause of your own misfortune? Have you almost succeeded in destroying your own life? Have you messed up everything? Are you ashamed of yourself?

Return to your heavenly Father, and confess your sin to Him, He will celebrate over you. His Word declares your position to be an honored one, not a shameful one! **Hebrews 11:16** says of those who have faith in God, and who turn from their sins, that, *"God is not ashamed to be called their God."*

DRINKING ANY OF THE THREE CUPS OF SHAME IS A SIN.

If you have accepted any of these cups of shame, you have given them dominion or power over your life. You have allowed the devil to nail you to a cross of shame, and you have become a slave to shame.

IT IS A SIN BECAUSE THE ONLY CROSS OF SHAME YOU NEED IS THE ONE JESUS HUNG UPON!

If you accept another cross, you are saying Jesus' cross of shame was not enough! Listen to the truth. It will set you free!

YOU ARE NOT NAILED TO THE CROSS! YOU DO NOT LIVE A CRUCIFIED LIFE, BUT A RESURRECTED LIFE!

*"Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."
(Romans 10:11NKJV)*

What must you do to change what you feel?

(2 Corinthians 10:5 NKJV) “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Practical Steps to Change Your Feelings about Yourself

1. Stop receiving words of condemnation from anyone (including yourself!).
2. Clear away the negative rubble from the past. Wash yourself clean every day, by the washing of the water of God’s Word.
3. Put on the garment of praise and the armor of God. Let the Glory of the Lord shine from within you.
4. Turn off the tape player that says: **“Shame on you, shame on you.”** Then pull the tape out and destroy it. Put in the tape that says...

“IT IS WRITTEN, IT IS WRITTEN, IT IS WRITTEN”

NO MORE HITCHHIKERS!

