

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Ashamed**

"A man should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong, which is but saying ... that he is wiser today than yesterday." – Jonathan Swift

"Having been poor is no shame, but being ashamed of it, is." – Benjamin Franklin

"Never be ashamed of who you are. True shame always belongs to the person that enjoys being ashamed of who you are." – Shannon L. Alder

"Unless you're ashamed of yourself now and then, you're not honest." – William Faulkner

The word *ashamed* means, "embarrassed or guilty because of one's actions, characteristics, or associations." All of us, at one time or another, have had to endure such embarrassment. It is humiliating to say the least.

The word *ashamed* is found 117 times in Scripture. The word *shame* appears 115 times. Obviously, this is a word well known in the Bible.

From of old, God's Word was clear on those who worshipped idols. "Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods" (Psa. 97:7).

There were times when children would be a shame to their parents. "He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame and brings reproach" (Prov. 19:26).

But there are also times in Scripture when shame is not a bad thing. The apostles were punished for following Christ. "So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy so suffer shame for His name" (Acts 5:41).

Often Christians will sing, "My God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me" (Psa. 25:2).

Jesus also gave a warning. "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38).

And who can forget the monumental declaration: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

Yes, there are times when we are ashamed for what we have said or how we have acted. But there are indeed times when we need to stand for God with courage and conviction. In those instances, we certainly do NOT want to be ashamed.

The world in which we live seeks to intimidate us and wants us to be ashamed of what we teach and believe. If we allow them to prevail, then we have cause to be ashamed.