

God's Gift Of Guilt

Text : **Psalm 32: 1-11 ; I John 1: 5-2:2**

S#1.

S#2.

A. In our culture, guilt is looked upon as a bad thing.

1. The secularists blame Christians for creating feelings of guilt in people.
2. This could not be the case because Adam and Eve felt guilt.
 - a. They had had contact with NO other people. (*Religion did not yet exist*)
 - b. **Gen. 3: 7** ... They felt guilt as a result of their sin. (*instinctive response*)
3. They realized their close relationship with God was destroyed by their sin/guilt.
 - a. **Gen. 3: 8** ... They attempted to hid from God.
 - b. **Gen. 3: 9** ... They became fearful of God.

B. What is guilt ?

1. Merriam-Webster : **Guilt**
 - a. **1** - the fact of having committed a breach of conduct
 - b. **3** - a feeling of deserving blame for offenses
2. Strong's Hebrew Lexicon :
 - a. עָוֹן **avon**
 - b. *iniquity, guilt, punishment for iniquity*
- *3. Practically, guilt is to the souls what pain is to the body ... unpleasant but necessary.

C. Guilt is essential to one's spiritual survival.

S#3.

1. When pain comes we seek to relieve it, but it serves a useful purpose.
 - a. If one were to try to pick up a hot pan he would be burned if he felt no pain.
 - b. One who had a broken leg would walk on it if he felt no pain.
2. Those who cannot feel pain have difficulty to survive.
 - a. People with disease, Congenital Insensitivity to Pain, suffer from infected injuries.
 - b. People with Hansen's disease (*leprosy*) lose limbs because they cannot feel them.
(*Leprous member on mission field had half of his ear eaten by a rat while he slept.*)
3. Without the pangs of guilt there would be little motivation to repent.

I. God uses guilt to bring us to the foot of the cross.

S#4.

A. David was a good example of this.

1. David was described favorable, a man after God's own heart.
 - a. He was the "anointed of God."

- b. He was the people's choice.
 - c. He was a great warrior.
- 2. One writer described David as having :
 - a. The heart of an artist
 - b. The soul of a priest
 - c. The mind of a philosopher
 - d. The body of a warrior
- 3. Despite being rich and powerful beyond belief, he had a mid-life crisis.
 - a. He had an adulterous escapade with Uriah's wife.
 - b. In his attempts to cover it up he compounded his sin.
- 4. Thankfully David was miserable with guilt. S#5.

Psa. 32: 3-4 – When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away
Through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night
Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained
away as with the fever heat of summer.
- 5. David had offended God so he apologized to God and asked His forgiveness.

Psa. 32: 5 – I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; S#6.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";
And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Cf. – **I John 1: 9**
- 6. This is the proper functioning of guilt.

B. God still uses guilt to bring us to repentance.

- 1. Guilt is an uncomfortable reminder that we have violated the will of God.
- 2. Guilt should drive us to mourning over sin and drive us to repentance.

Acts: 2: 36-37 – Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God S#7.
has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified.
37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said
to Peter and the rest of the apostles, " Brethren, what shall we do?"

II. Those outside Christ in the worldly culture respond to guilt differently. S#8.

- A. They try to ignore and deny that guilt is a valid emotion. S#9.
 - 1. They reject the validity of God's standard so to them guilt is an invalid response.
 - a. *"That's old fashion thinking."*
 - b. Things are different these days.
 - 2. They claim victimhood. It's not my fault ...
 - a. My parents were too strict so of course I rebelled.
 - b. **Pg girl** .. What was I going to do? I like him and he was really pressing me?

3. Why should I feel guilty, abortion is legal and it's my right to choose.
 - a. It wouldn't be fair to bring an unwanted child into the world.
 - b. Having a child would ruin my life and its as well.
4. Sin is relegated to an item on the desert menu.
 - a. Sinful Butterscotch Pudding, Sinful Triple Chocolate Cake
 - b. **Odd ?** - Lying is often called "*fudging on the truth.*"

B. They try to hide from it.

1. Adam tried to hide from the guilt of His sin.
2. David killed Uriah trying to hide his sin.
3. People today still try to escape their guilt.
 - a. Some use drugs and/or alcohol
 - b. Some try to stay so busy there is no time to think about it, but night comes.

C. Now days, culture tries to make every sin a disease.

1. A drunk is afflicted with alcoholism.
2. One who gets drunk on drugs is a victim of addiction.

D. They try to substitute self-esteem for their guilt.

1. Advocates say, "*There are no bad people, only people who feel bad about self.*"
 - a. If people feel better about themselves they will act better and accomplish more.
 - b. Not true : Study showed **90% of prisoners** had high self-esteem.
2. Richest televangelist says he will not preach about sin. He says that people already feel bad enough. His goal is to make them feel better.
3. The goal of the self-esteem cult is the glory of man, not the glory of God.

III. Worldly people try to educate their conscience not to respond to guilt. S#10.

A. The conscience referenced 23 times in the writings of Paul alone. E.G. .. S#11.

I Tim. 1: 5 – But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

B. The word conscience :

1. Merriam-Webster : the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions, or character together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good.
2. Strong's Greek Lexicon : Conscience { *suneidēsis* } the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other.

3. Common delineations :

S#12.

- a. Moral intuition
- b. One's innate sense of right and wrong
- c. The soul's early warning system
- d. The Puritans called it : God's deputy to arrest us in sin.

* A 5 yr old was asked, "What is your conscience?" Answered, "I'm not sure, but I think it has something to do with feeling bad when ya kick other kids."

C. Everyone is born with a conscience.

Rom. 2: 14-15 – For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, **15** in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, S#13.

D. One's conscience can be rendered non-functional.

1. Practicing sin causes one's conscience to become callused and insensitive.
 - a. **Eph. 4: 19** – they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. S#14.
 - b. **I Tim. 4: 2** – by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron
2. Our conscience must be programmed properly ... "*Garbage in garbage out.*"
 - a. Saul of Tarsus killed Christians with a clear conscience.
 - b. **Acts. 23: 1**– Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."
3. Constant exposure to media sears one's conscience. (*violent video games*)

IV. The Christian should live a guilt free life.

S#15.

A. People of the world try to work off their guilt by virtuous actions.

S#16.

1. They believe that they must do good to outweigh the evil.
2. The consequences of even one sin is the death penalty.

Rom. 6: 23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*convicted – on death row*)
3. Only God has the authority to forgive sins.

- a. All sin is against God.

Psa. 51: 4 – Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

S#17.

- b. **Only** the one who has been offended can forgive the offense.

B. God is willing to forgive His children if they will confess their sins. S#18.

I John 1: 8-9 – If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C. The forgiveness of God removes all guilt. S#19.

1. Forgiven sins are out of sight :

Psa. 32: 1– How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!

2. Forgiven sins are out of mind :

Jer. 31: 34 – "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

3. Forgiven sins are out of reach :

Mic. 7: 19 – Yes, You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

4. Forgiven sins are out of existence :

Isa 43: 25 – I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

*** *The same God who can create something out of nothing can create nothing out of something.* S#20.**

CONCLUSION :**A. Guilt is the gift of God that brings honest hearts back to God. S#21.**

II Cor. 7: 9 – I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. **10** For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

B. Guilt should never be ignored. S#22.

Chas Spurgeon said : He is a fool who kills the watchdog for awakening Him in the night when the thief approached.

C. In Jesus, God provided a way to totally eliminate guilt by eliminating sin.

S#23. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Psalm 32: 1-11**

1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! **2** How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!

3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. (Selah)

5 I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, " I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; and You forgave the guilt of my sin. (Selah.) **6** Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. **7** You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. (Selah)

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. **9** Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, **10** Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him. **11** Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

I John 1: 5-2: 2

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.