

Shame and Honor Workshop

AVOID FACE-LOSING SITUATIONS

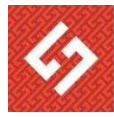
- Openly criticizing, challenging, disagreeing with, or denying someone.
- Calling someone out on a lie.
- Not showing proper deference to elders or superiors.
- Turning down an invitation with an outright no (instead, they usually say “maybe”, “yes, maybe”, “we’ll do our best”, “let’s think/talk about it later,” or “I need to discuss it with so-and so first”)
- Being late on a flimsy excuse (demonstrates that you don’t respect or take them seriously).
- Interrupting someone while they are talking.
- Being angry at someone -mutual loss of face for both parties
- Revealing someone’s lack of ability or knowledge (such as being able to speak English).

TIPS FOR GIVING FACE:

- Praising someone publicly (especially in front of their elders or boss).
- Giving high marks on customer evaluation forms (the Chinese are generally generous, especially when giving reviews of their teachers).
- Treating someone to an expensive meal or banquet (the most common face-giving technique that makes Chinese business and society run).
- Giving sincere compliments and showing that you’re enjoying oneself when being treated out.
- Giving an expensive gift, especially an imported one.

YOUR RESPONSE TO HONOR:

- Graciously receive the honor you are granted
- Observe how you are treated with honor and treat them the same way
- Just because you are being treated with honor does not mean you deserve it
- Respect everyone
- Cover their shame
- The Gospel using “Shame” verses rather than “Guilt”



THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS for HonorShame Contexts

The most important thing in a person's life is their family and honor. We all want to be honored, and be part of a group with a good reputation. Let's look at how you can be honored by God and become part of God's honored family

Act 1: The Intention of God – Honor Granted

The honorable God created humans to also be honorable. God created Adam and Eve as his children; they were to be pure and faithful. Humans had God's name, reputation, honor, home, authority, dominion and prestige. They were God's children.

"O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens... What is man that you are mindful of him? And the son of man, that you visit him? For you have made him a little lower than God, and crowned him with glory and honor. You make him to have dominion over the works of their hands. You have put all things under his feet." (Psalm 8:1, 4-6)

If God created us with such honor, why do we now strive to cover our shame and obtain honor? What happened?

Act 2: The Problem of Humanity – Shame Introduced

Adam did not honor God as an obedient and loyal son. When Adam did not obey God, he had great shame and had to be banished from God's family.

"Therefore the LORD God sent him out of the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man." (Genesis 3:23-24a)

We are all children of Adam who inherit Adam's shame and add our own shame through personal disobedience and unfaithfulness. When we strive to create our own honor, we ultimately dishonor God and increase our shame before Him. In God's eyes we have more shame than a crazy, homeless person. Because of our shame, we are distanced from God.

"Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)

We humans are so defiled that even our good deeds are not clean. Our defilements come from our hearts, not anything we touch.

"We have all become like one who is unclean, and all of our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment." (Isaiah 64:6)

"There is nothing outside of a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." (Mark 7:15)

All cultures and religions have ways to for people to obtain honor in the community's eyes, but we nevertheless remain shamed before our Creator. Our traditions are just bandages on the surface, but we need an operation on our heart. If we are dirty, unfaithful, and shamed before God, how can our shame be removed and our honor restored?

Act 3: The Final Solution – Shame Removed and Honor Restored

Because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our shame can be removed and our honor restored. Jesus is like the father's oldest, most-honored son who left the father's home to come and find us. When he found us, he exchanged his royal robe for our filthy rags, and sent us back to the father's house.

Jesus showed God's love toward the shamed people of society when he love and included prostitutes, lepers, sick, and pagans into his new group that was God's family. When Jesus died on the cross, he publically experienced and bore our shame upon himself. Jesus was able to bear our shame because he was the only human to live without shame before God.

“And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns; they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they spit on him and took the reed and struck his on the head. And when they had mocked him they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.” (Matthew 27:28-31)

“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one who from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” (Isaiah 53:3)

But when Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, he was granted a position of honor and prestige at God's right hand. But it is not enough to know what God did to remove our shame and restore or honor.

Act 4: The Response for Salvation – Honor Accepted

If we want to be considered an honorable child in God's family, then we must trust in Jesus.

“Whoever believes in him (Jesus) will not be put to shame. So honor is for you who believe.” (1 Peter 2:6b-7a)

“We are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” (Romans 8:16a-17)

Through Jesus we can have honor and we will never be shamed in God's eyes.

“God raised us up with him (Jesus) and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6)

Conclusion



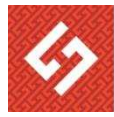
David once sang, *“My salvation and my honor depend on God.” (Psalm 62:7)*. This means that no matter how prestigious our family name is or how great our reputation, the only honor that is important is the honor God gives. God’s opinion of us is far more important than others’.

We are not honored because we are honorable, but because God has chosen to honor us. *“He (God) raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’s, and on them he has set the world.” (1 Samuel 2:8)*

If you want God to remove your shame and give you honor, you can pray the following:

“God I am in need of you. I confess that I am unfaithful to you and my heart is impure. I thank you Jesus that you took my shame and offers me honor. I thank you for the new identity you give me and for making me a part of your family, God. I believe in you Jesus alone for honor and acceptance into God’s family. I trust that I will never be put to shame before you and that you will honor me. As I promise to follow with my entire life, make me the person you want me to be.





KEY SCRIPTURES FOR HONOR-SHAME CONTEXTS

VERSES – Didactic teaching of salvation as honor

- 1 Peter 2:6-7 – “Whoever believes in him will never be put to shame.”
- Romans 10:11-12 – “Whoever believes in him will not be shamed.”
- Psalm 62:7 – “My salvation and honor depend on God.”
- John 12:26 – “If anyone serves me, the father will honor him.”
- John 12:43 – The Pharisees “loved the glory from man than the glory that comes from God.”
- John 17:22 – “The glory you have given me, I have given to them; that they may be one as we are one.”
- Romans 8:16-18 – We are “children of God...and fellow heirs of Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 – “He called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Colossians 3:4 – “When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”
- Isaiah 54:4-6 – “Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth.”
- Hebrews 2:9-10 – “Jesus, crowned with honor and glory (brought) many sons to glory.”
- Hebrews 12:2 – Jesus “endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- Philippians 2:4-10 – “He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death...Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him a name that is above every name.”
- Eph 3:12-19 – “You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints.”
- 1 Sam 2:30 – “Those who honor me I will honor, those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.”



PSALMS – Heartfelt prayers to God for dealing with personal issues of honor and shame

- 8 – God graciously bestowed honor and dignity upon humanity
- 44 – A petition for God to awake and remove undeserved shame
- 49 – Death erases all claims to status and power
- 75 – God is the sole arbiter of honor
- 89 – The present disgrace, after promised exaltation, of David’s dynasty
- 96/97 – God is enthroned as the most honorable
- 109 – Invocation of God to shame enemies

- 113 – Call to honor the honorable and honoring Lord
- 129 – God reverses shameful affliction
- 146 – Call to trust the Lord who helps the shamed

NARRATIVES/CHARACTERS – Examples of how God exalts the lowly and disgraced

- Genesis 1:26-2 (Adam and Eve)
- Genesis 12:1-3 (Abraham)
- Genesis 37-41 (Joseph)
- Exodus 2-4 (Moses)
- Deuteronomy 6-7 (Israel)
- 1 Samuel 2 (Hannah)
- 1 Samuel 17; 2 Samuel 7 (David)
- 2 Samuel 9 (Mephibosheth)
- Ruth (Ruth)
- Esther (Esther, Mordecai, and Jews)
- Job 1-2, 42 (Job)
- Daniel 1-6 (Daniel and Israelites)
- Mark 5 (demonized, deceased, bleeding woman)
- Luke 15:11-32 (the prodigal son)
- Acts 2:22-36; Philippians 2:4-10 (Jesus)
- Acts 10-11, 15 (Cornelius and Gentiles)

See also, [HTTP://HONORSHAME.COM/TOP-10-VERSES-ON-HONORSHAME/](http://HONORSHAME.COM/TOP-10-VERSES-ON-HONORSHAME/)



IN THE BIBLE

Words & Symbols

Glory, name, face, praise, worth, renown, majesty, worship, exalt.

Crown, rule, king, feast, clothing, adoption, beloved, white, purity, head, family, victory, life, heir.

Dishonor, disgrace, scorn, mock, reject, exclude, insult, blush.

Naked, defiled, outcast, curse, boast, weak, sick, unclean, exile, feet, orphan, alien, cross, death.

Stories

Adam, Eve, Cain (Gen 3 & 4)

Hannah vs. Eli's sons (1 Sam 1-2)

Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9)

Joseph, Ruth, Esther, Daniel

Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11ff)

Leper, Zacchaeus (Lk 5; Lk 19)

Demonized, Dead, Blood (Mk 5)

Jesus' Death (Lk 23:18f; Phil 2:5f)

Proverbs

Sin causes shame (13:9,18; 18:3)

Peace is honorable (19:11; 20:3)

Fools get disgrace (25:9f; 26:1)

Dishonoring God (14:2, 31; 30:9)

Good name (10:7; 22:1; 12:9)

Proud & humble (3:34f; 29:23)



GOSPEL of SALVATION

Problem: Unfaithfulness

People have broken the relationship with God. Our sin dishonors God.

(Ez 36:21; Rom 1:21-23; 2:23; 3:23)

Dilemma: Shame

Our dishonor means separation and disunion. We are shameful in God's eyes, and feel shame.

(Gen 3:7-8; Jer 3:8, 25; Rom 1:24)

Solution: Restoration

Jesus' death honored God and bore our shame. His death reconciled the relationship.

(Is 50:6; 53:3; Heb 12:2; Rom 8:14f)

Response: Loyalty

People must honor Jesus with complete allegiance. We must seek God's face and name.

(1Sm 2:30; Jn 12:26, 43; Rom 4:20f)

Result: Honor

God makes outcasts his children and exalts them to eternal glory.

(Zeph 3:19; Isa 54:4; 62:2f; Jn 1:12; 17:22; Rom 10:11-12; 1Pet 2:6-11)

