

Grace and Guilt

James 2:10 (NASB) "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."

First: What is GUILT?

- A. There is REAL guilt.
- B. There is FALSE guilt.



THREE TESTS

- 1. Is the focus on PEOPLE or is it on GOD?
- 2. Is it VAGUE or is it SPECIFIC?
- 3. Is it RULES or RELATIONSHIPS?

Psalms 51:3-4 (NASB) " For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight..."

Second: Mans way of DEALING with guilt.

- 1. SHAME.

Genesis 3:7 (NASB) "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings."

- 2. HIDING.

Genesis 3:8 (NASB) "They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden."

- 3. BLAME.

Genesis 3:12-13 (NASB) "The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Third: God's way of handling guilt: GRACE

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. "

- 1. **Confess your sins.**

Isaiah 53:6a (NASB) "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..."

Psalms 69:5 (NIV) "You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you."

James 5:16 "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so God can heal you."



2. Trust God's character.

1 John 1:9 (NASB) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. "

Hebrews 10:22 (NASB) "Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

3. Accept God's forgiveness.

1 John 1:9 (NASB) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. "

John 3:18 (NASB) "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Romans 8:1-2 (NASB) "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."

Colossians 2:13-14 (NASB) "When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

Psalms 32:5 (NASB) "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."

Application:

Do you struggle with guilt?

Are you able to discern the difference between real guilt and false guilt?

How have you been handling guilt in your life?

Shame Blame
 Hiding Giving it to God

Is there any sin in your life you need to confess to God?

Do you have a hard time trusting the character of Christ to forgive your sin and remove your guilt?

Are you willing to take God at His word and accept His forgiveness and receive the grace of God sufficient to remove your sense of guilt?

What has God shown you through this message?

What do you need to do in response to what God has shown you?

Memory Verse: Psalm 32:5 (NASB) "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."