

The Lowedown

A monthly newsletter from Dave & Jennifer Lowe

January 13, 1998

19 For I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:19, 20

Living with No Shame

This year, nearly 800 students from Arizona, California and Hawaii, convened in San Diego for this year's Christmas Conference.

The theme of this year's conference was "No Shame".

What does it mean to live with "No Shame"? It means to live in such a way as to bring honor and glory to our Lord

Jesus Christ. It means that our lives reflect the character of Jesus. Living with No Shame means that my attitudes, actions, words and deeds will not bring dishonor or disgrace the Lord in any way.

Have you evaluated your life lately to determine whether or not you are living a life of No Shame?

How do you determine whether or not your actions do/ will glorify Christ?

This year's speakers focused on what it means to live a life of no shame.

shame n. 1 a painful feeling of having lost the respect of others because of the improper behavior, incompetence, etc. of oneself or another **2** a tendency to have feelings of this kind; or a capacity for such feeling **3** dishonor or disgrace

No Shame to the Name

As I talked to Joe about his weekend plans, he got really excited. "I have this certificate for a free night's stay in a pretty nice hotel. My girlfriend and I are going to get away for the weekend."

What would you say to Joe at that point? What problems might occur by putting yourself in a situation like Joe's?

"Do you think it's such a good idea to spend the night in a hotel room with your girlfriend?", I asked.

"Oh, don't worry, nothing's going to happen. We're not planning on sleeping

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No Shame to Proclaim the Name

When I was in high school, I hung around with a group of students who weren't Christians. One day as we were eating lunch, one of them opened up a copy of the school newspaper. On the front page was an article by another student proclaiming his belief in Biblical creation over evolution.

My friends began to ridicule the author. "How could anyone believe that fairy tale?" "How could any rational, intelligent human being even believe in God?" "What an idiot."

At that point, I had the opportunity to speak up for Christ, but I didn't. I was afraid

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No Shame in the Pain

Have you ever asked, "What is the purpose of suffering and pain in the Christian life?"

Some who call themselves Christians teach that suffering results from sin, or a lack of faith in one's life. However, that is not what the Bible teaches.

Hank Hanegraaf, in his book *Christianity in Crisis*, sums it up best:

"Job...was faced with the ultimate test of faith. Even though God acknowledged Job as "blameless and upright," Job suffered unspeakable tragedy.

First he lost his financial base; then he lost his family. Finally even his health failed.

Questions and doubts must surely have raced through Job's mind...Were Job's friends correct in suggesting that tragedy

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together or anything like that.”

“Perhaps nothing *will* happen. But what do you think the manager will think? Do you think the manager will assume that nothing happened? Or is it more likely that he’ll assume that something did happen?”

Sometimes our actions can indirectly bring shame to the name of Christ. How do you determine whether or not something you say or do will glorify Christ? Do you do whatever feels good? Or do you think about what the Bible says?

Living with No Shame requires us to think about how our actions will

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of being labeled “an idiot”. I was afraid of being rejected.

Imagine my surprise, when I later read in the Bible these words from Jesus:

“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)

Do you stand up to friends and co-workers when the name of Christ is being maligned? **Living with No Shame means that we’re not afraid to defend Christ.**

How do you live a life of “No Shame”?

John gives us the answer in 1 John 2:28. He says,

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. (NASB)

According to John, when the Lord appears, there are two different responses we can have. Either we can shrink away in shame (disgrace) or we can have confidence.

How can we have confidence? John says that we should “*abide in Him*”.

You may remember that it was John who quoted Jesus as He gave the illustration of the vine and the branches in John 15.

Abiding in Christ means depending on Christ to live His life through us. If we abide in Him, if we depend on Him moment by moment, we will live a life of “No Shame”.

But it is NO SHAME to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by His wonderful name! 1 Peter 4:16 (NLT)

Pain, continued

had befallen him because he had indulged himself in some secret sin? Or was a sovereign God working all things together for good in the life of a man who loved God and was called according to His purpose?

Job and those closest to him were left in the dark, for Scripture reveals that what was happening in the heavenlies was hidden from them.

Job’s wife impugned the Sovereign of the universe. ‘Curse God and die,’ she said (Job 2:9).

Job’s “friends” impugned Job. Unanimously they accused him of suffering for some secret sin. ‘Surely God does not reject a blameless man,’ they cried.

Job, however, impugned neither himself nor God. Emotionally he was on a roller coaster as his mind searched for answers, but in the end he uttered the ultimate words of faith: ‘Though He slay me, yet I will hope in Him’ (Job 13:15).”

When you or another Christian experiences poor health, emotional or physical pain or suffering, abuse, etc. who or what do you usually blame?

Living with “No Shame” means that we exalt God even when we are suffering of when we don’t feel like it.

Prayer

- Pray for the 30 students from Fresno area schools who attended the Conference. Pray that they would turn their excitement from the conference into an opportunity to influence other students back on campus.
- Pray for Jennifer and Dave. Pray that we would live lives of “No Shame”. Pray that we would not bring any shame to the name of Christ, and that we would boldly (with no shame) proclaim Christ to others.
- Pray that our first 4 weeks on campus would be productive in reaching out to more students on campus. Pray that we would be able to reach out to freshmen.