

Ashamed? Not Ashamed?

Ponder: How can the Lord not be ashamed of me?

Scripture: "For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren" (Heb. 2:11).

Sin produces shame. In the beginning Adam and Eve "were both naked . . . and were not ashamed" (Gen. 2:25). But when they sinned, they became ashamed and afraid, hiding from God and vainly attempting to cover their nakedness.

Nothing changed over the centuries. Sin still produced shame in the first century and continues to produce shame today. Paul rhetorically asked converted pagans, "What fruit did you then have in the things of which you are now ashamed?" (Rom. 6:21). He rebuked the Corinthian brethren for taking their petty squabbles to pagan courts for resolution: "I say this to your shame" (1 Cor. 6:5).

But here is good news! God is not ashamed of His people who live by faith, despite their flaws and failures. Great characters like Noah and Abraham trusted and obeyed God. Were they sinlessly perfect? No indeed, but they were faithful. "Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them" (Heb. 11:16).

Jesus tasted death of everyone; He is the captain of our salvation, having been made perfect through sufferings (Heb. 2:9-10). He sanctifies us (makes us holy, cleansing us from sin and setting us apart to God's service), thereby making us sons of God (Heb. 9:11). As a result, He is not ashamed to call us His brethren!

Sin ought to make us ashamed. But thanks be to God for the blood of Jesus that cleanses us! If we are not ashamed of Him, He will not be ashamed of us (Matt. 10:32).

Hymn: "Jesus Paid It All"

Prayer: Father, we rejoice that You are not ashamed of us. We thank you for Jesus our Savior who cleanses us so we can be acceptable to you. Help us, we pray, never to be ashamed of Him. In His name, Amen.