

**New Beginnings**  
**Ministry Wreckers: Shame**  
**Genesis 3:1-10**

**Introduction**

1. There is a deadly disease that destroys the usefulness of many Christians in the church today. The disease is shame as illustrated in three true stories.
2. Dr. Ed Welch, a biblical counselor, has written a book entitled: "Shame Interrupted: How God Lifts the Pain of Worthlessness and Rejection."
  - He describes shame this way: "Shame is the deep sense that you are unacceptable because of something you did, something done to you, or something associated with you."
  - Here are the biblical principles that enable us to deal with shame God's way.

**Finding God's Good News about Shame**

1. **What is shame?**

**It is the deep sense you are unacceptable because of:**

- Something you did. Gen. 3:1-10
- Something done to you. II Sam. 13:20
- Something associated with you. Jn. 4:7-9

2. **Why is shame so destructive?**

- It is life-dominating and leads to hopelessness. Ex. 3:11
- It poisons our relationships with people. Gen. 3:8-13
- It causes us to hide from God. Gen. 3:8

3. **What is God's antidote for shame?**

- Confess your sin and neediness to God.
  - Trust God's love and grace in Christ for your eternal salvation.
- Discover and believe what God's Word says about your new identity in Christ. Col. 2:8-15
- Use the promises of God's Word to defeat Satan's lies. II Cor. 5:10

**The Challenge**

1. Read Psalm 63. Underline the statements that give you hope.
2. Bring your shame to God and find the love and belonging only He can give.

**Genesis 3:1-10** - Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. 8 And 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. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

**II Sam. 13:20** - And her brother Absalom said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart." So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house.

**Jn. 4:7-9** - A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

**Ex. 3:11** - But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

**Col. 2:8-15** - See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

**II Cor. 5:10** - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.