

Perspective: Shame

2 Timothy 1:6-12 Discussion Questions

1. What is an example of a time in your life when you have experienced shame? Explain why the situation was humiliating and what you valued that was being challenged?
2. The first key for dealing with shame is to fan into flame your faith (read 2 Tim 1:6). What are some ways we can fan into flame our faith? What have you found to be most effective?
3. Some people emphasize the passive role we play in the faith. For example, some people will say, “let go and let God.” But Paul tells Timothy to take an active role and fan into flame the gift of God. How would you explain this relationship between the active and passive role in becoming more like Christ?
4. The second key for dealing with shame is to not be ashamed of our Lord (read 2 Tim 1:8). What are some of the reasons given in vv. 9-10 for why we should not be ashamed of Christ?
5. What does Paul mean in v. 9 when he says that God saved us “because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began?” Why would this help us deal with shame?
6. What are some ways our lives reveal that we are ashamed of Christ? What are some reasons we are often ashamed of Christ? What does it reveal that we ultimately value when we are ashamed of Christ?
7. Another command in v. 8 is to not be ashamed of Paul. There were people who claimed to follow Jesus but they didn’t want to identify with Paul and his message. Why would someone claim to follow Jesus but not Paul?
8. Have you ever known of someone who claimed to believe the teachings of Jesus but reject the teachings of Paul? How would you explain to someone that this is problematic?
9. The third key for dealing with shame is to share in suffering for the gospel (read 2 Tim 1:8). How does this command to “share in suffering” seem to go against our nature and against a lot of popular “preaching?”
10. Paul says to “share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God” (v. 8). What does this look like for us? What does it mean to suffer “by the power of God?”
11. According to vv. 11-12, why is Paul suffering? How would you explain this issue to someone who says God never wants us to suffer?
12. One reason Paul is not ashamed is because he knows God will guard what has been entrusted to him (v. 12). Why would this be a reason to not be ashamed?
13. Another reason Paul is not ashamed is because he knows whom he has believed (v. 12). Why would knowing Jesus be a reason to not be ashamed?
14. What are some examples of ways Jesus has experienced shame for us? What are some ways you can “preach to yourself” so you are reminded of the shame Jesus has experienced for you so you are not ashamed of Him?