

“NEITHER COULD THEY BLUSH”

By Keith Greer

“Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down,” says the LORD. Thus says the LORD: Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ {Jeremiah 6:15,16} Unfortunately, God’s people sins were so hard on their hearts they were no longer ashamed of their conduct. Sadly, the same can be said of many today. We should blush and be ashamed:

Of our past life of sin. *“That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” {Ephesians 2:12,13}* All of us have a past record of sin, *Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8*. Sin could have cost us an eternity in hell fire, *Galatians 5:19-21*. We need to have genuine remorse of our past sins—why? Our sins caused the death of Christ on the cross. Make the sacrifice personal—because it was!

To commit sin—to disobey God. *“But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” {Ephesians 5:3-5}* Sin is not compatible with Christianity. When we are guilty of sin we are in rebellion against God. The prodigal son did not recover from his sinful condition until he saw himself in his true condition, *Luke 15:17-19*. Sin is a transgression of God’s law and we need to take that very seriously.

To fellowship darkness. *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.” {Ephesians 5:11,12}* God’s children must hate sin and those who will openly practice conduct contrary to His divine will. We don’t hate the person but the conduct that is putting their soul in eternal danger. We must always seek to separate ourselves from those who walk disorderly, *2 Corinthians 6:14; 2 John 9-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:14,15*.

To neglect the church. *“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” {Revelation 3:15-17}* The Lord paid for the church with His own blood, *Acts 20:28*. He is the head of the church, *Ephesians 1:22,23*. How can we neglect the work God has given us to accomplish in His church and not feel shame for our failure?

Failing to Love Those Lost in Sin. *“For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. And again, ‘The LORD will judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.’ {Hebrews 10:30,31}* Hell is a terrible place and no Christian should desire anyone to go there for all eternity. Yet, could it be we have friends, co-workers, neighbors, or even loved ones who are not making God part of their lives and we see them regularly. Do we ever seek to open a discussion on the spiritual side of their greatest need? If not, why not?

Of our lack of knowledge. *“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” {Hebrews 5:14}*
Does it cause us to blush when we have been a member of the church for many years and still have not grown a proverbial inch? So many problems happen in our lives and in the church that can be traced directly to our lack of knowledge of His word. Yet, this problem can be fixed by actively applying ourselves to learning His book. Could it be we too have lost the ability to blush? ***