

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 17, 2019**

**“Restoring the Masterpiece ~ Shame”**

**John 4:4-30**

“For we are God’s masterpiece...” (Ephesians 2:10)

We are God’s \_\_\_\_\_ work—each of us is individually created and loved by God—and as such, we’re of infinite \_\_\_\_\_ and worth.

However, like Martinez’s painting; we too can become damaged do to \_\_\_\_\_ to the world and are in constant need of \_\_\_\_\_ and repair—we’re in constant need of the \_\_\_\_\_ to restore, clean, and repair us from the inside out.

Shame is often easier to \_\_\_\_\_ than to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Shame =**

**2 KINDS OF SHAME**

**#1.** \_\_\_\_\_ **shame** = What we experience when we \_\_\_\_\_ and are aware of it; that awful feeling of having \_\_\_\_\_ the mark or failed; the regret of \_\_\_\_\_ God and/or other people—this is sometimes also called \_\_\_\_\_; or feeling bad for what we’ve done.

Like Adam and Eve in the garden, when faced with true shame, we have two choices: We can run and \_\_\_\_\_ and pretend its not there , or we can \_\_\_\_\_ our sin; repent of it; ask God to forgive us; and our fellowship with Him is restored.

**“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** (1 John 1:8-9)

**We can either run to God or from God—what do you usually do?**

**#2.** \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ shame = **This is not used** by God to bring healing and restoration, but by the \_\_\_\_\_ to keep us in pain and further damage the masterpiece.

False shame is a \_\_\_\_\_, but deadly disease that pollutes the lifeblood of many Christian’s \_\_\_\_\_.

False shame is the fear of being found out, being \_\_\_\_\_; rejected; or exposed.

False shame is the \_\_\_\_\_ we believe about ourselves; the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s love and forgiveness based on feelings of \_\_\_\_\_.

False shame puts us in a \_\_\_\_\_ of self-perception, and although you want to believe all of the wonderful things that the Bible says about you, you can’t.

True shame says; “You \_\_\_\_\_ wrong.” False shame says; “You \_\_\_\_\_ wrong.” True shame says; “I \_\_\_\_\_ a mistake.” False shame says; “I \_\_\_\_\_ a mistake.”

Like most works of darkness, false shame operates best when it’s \_\_\_\_\_ and hidden. However, as long as it has freedom to move around in our lives unnoticed and \_\_\_\_\_, we’ll never be \_\_\_\_\_.

Faced with the reality of false shame in their life, many people take matters into their own \_\_\_\_\_, try to \_\_\_\_\_ the problem on their own, and restore the masterpiece by turning to counterfeit \_\_\_\_\_ that bring only \_\_\_\_\_ relief.

**THE SEVEN P’S OF COUNTERFEIT AFFECTION**

**#1.** \_\_\_\_\_ “X will make me feel better.”

**#2.** \_\_\_\_\_ “I’ll find pleasure and rest in worldly gain.”

**#3.** \_\_\_\_\_ “My worth is found in what other people think of me.”

**#4.** \_\_\_\_\_ “If only I could do more...”

**#5.** \_\_\_\_\_ “X will make me happy.”

**#6.** \_\_\_\_\_ “The grass is always greener...”

**#7.** \_\_\_\_\_ “I’m the boss and it’s all about me and my needs.”

The problem comes when we \_\_\_\_\_ on them or become addicted to them, as our sole source of \_\_\_\_\_, happiness, and peace—when we look to them to \_\_\_\_\_ our feelings of shame. However, try as we may, we can’t \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves. \_\_\_\_\_, the Master, is

the only One who can restore the masterpiece.

The only remedy for both kinds of shame is the \_\_\_\_\_, which destroys the power of the lies we've believed about ourselves.

### 3 GRACE FACTORS THAT BREAK THE POWER OF SHAME

#### Grace Factor #1: \_\_\_\_\_

If Jesus asks us to give Him something, what He really has in mind is to give us something \_\_\_\_\_, in exchange. Jesus asked the woman to help quench His physical thirst—to give Him \_\_\_\_\_ water—so He could engage her in conversation, out of which He would quench her \_\_\_\_\_ thirst with living water.

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the woman as she was. He \_\_\_\_\_ her and had compassion for her; He found \_\_\_\_\_ ground with her; He invested \_\_\_\_\_ in her; and He showed a genuine \_\_\_\_\_ in her well-being. This acceptance was the basis of her \_\_\_\_\_.

We all need this same kind of \_\_\_\_\_ love and acceptance before we can even begin to hear the \_\_\_\_\_ about ourselves, yet so often in our world, love and acceptance is \_\_\_\_\_ on the things we do and don't do—on getting it \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus illustrates something very important here about relationships: It is impossible for us to \_\_\_\_\_ to people and \_\_\_\_\_ them at the same time.

**How loved and accepted do you feel?**

**Is that acceptance and love conditional or unconditional?**

**It is based on the fact that you're a child of God and of infinite value?**

**Is it based on what you do or whether you're 'religious' enough or not?**

#### Grace Factor #2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Conviction =**

Although this can sometimes bring a certain level of \_\_\_\_\_, and we might not believe it at the time, conviction is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

Jesus brings it up to awaken a \_\_\_\_\_ check in her heart—to convict her to see that something had to change—that there's a \_\_\_\_\_ way.

**How is life working for you? How is your marriage working?**

**How is your relationship with your family, children, workmates**

**working? How is your spiritual life—your relationship with God?**

It's so easy to \_\_\_\_\_ the subject or to get all religious and focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ things of church, instead of on Jesus—especially when He calls us to go \_\_\_\_\_ into our hearts; face the truth about ourselves; and receive the new and better way He offers us.

**How many times have you changed the subject when the conversation got a little too personal or hit a little too close to home?**

Jesus cuts through her \_\_\_\_\_ language and tells her that God seeks \_\_\_\_\_, not ritual.

Conviction and \_\_\_\_\_ go hand and hand—we encounter them both when we encounter Jesus.

**How might God be convicting you—what's stirring in your heart?**

#### Grace Factor #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes—either out of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, or both—we think we know what God is like and what faith is all about. But in reality, we have a very \_\_\_\_\_ understanding. If we really knew who God was—His character and His love for us—if we really understood Him and the gift He wants to give us—we would \_\_\_\_\_.

**Why is it that we don't ask Jesus and settle for so much less?**

**Why would we much rather do it ourselves? What are we afraid of?**

“You do not have because you do not ask.” (James 4:2)

**What have you wanted to ask of God, but haven't, out of fear?**

**What have you been working so hard to do for yourself?**

Receiving is based on asking and asking is based on \_\_\_\_\_. That's why \_\_\_\_\_—knowledge of who Jesus is—is so important.



The worst thing we can do when we find ourselves in need of restoration is to take matters into our own \_\_\_\_\_ and try to do the work ourselves.

Imprisoned by shame's lies, the woman at the well tried everything to \_\_\_\_\_ the chains that bound her. However, nothing she tried would fit, and everything she tried was only a \_\_\_\_\_ fix at best—and so she lived her life from fix to fix—until she encountered the One who held the keys to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Do you struggle with shame?**

**Do you need to be restored by the Master in this area of your life?**