

God's Grace Is Sufficient for You!

Happy Wednesday!

In our current culture, we're taught many things contrary to Scripture. One of those is the category of "self", which in and of itself isn't a problem, but what we believe about it can become the problem.

Self-sins: self-preservation (keeping yourself afloat even while you allow others to fail, or even help them fail), selfishness, self-righteousness (considering your sins and weaknesses as "better" or "not as bad as" another's, while the Bible says we ALL sin and fall short of God's glory), self-help (the "I got myself where I am" attitude. Truly God is the only reason for anything good in your life so we cannot blame Him for bad things [like consequences of our choices] and take credit for the good), self-paced (I do it my way, not God's), self-love (I don't need to change, I love me how I am - sin and all)... there's a lot! But what does the Bible say?

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil." Proverbs 3:5-7

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:3-7

"that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." Ephesians 4:22-24

Which brings me to this: if you proclaim Jesus Christ as the Savior Who takes away your sins and restores you to God, then you are being made new. And as you're being made new, there's an unfortunate opportunity to be tempted between choosing SHAME or GUILT when you become aware of wrongdoing.

Shame is a self-sin that comes straight from hell. I say that because the language of hell is lies, and shame is a lie. Shame is: Self-Hatred At My Expense (S.H.A.M.E.). Shame is from our enemy who wants you to feel so terrible that you CANNOT go to God because you don't love yourself in this mess and certainly God cannot love you in this mess. So you end up isolating yourself from God... after self-hatred comes the distorted belief of self-help (not relying on God) then self-love (I love me all the time because God can't love me when I'm this way - another lie) then self-preservation (to keep yourself from going back to God and renewed thinking in Him)

and finally, self-righteousness (I did it all and I did it myself (and maybe even a little bit of pride: I'm better than others who can't do what I just did)).

Guilt, on the other hand, is from the Lord. Guilt causes us to recognize GENTLY that we've done something wrong. And we know it's the Holy Spirit of God pointing it out to us, and we immediately seek God and ask for His mercy. After guilt comes confession, forgiveness of sins (mercy), repentance, and grace. And to those who have received God's mercy, it becomes possible to give it.

Shame separates us from God, but guilt brings us to Him for restoration.

Shame separates.

Guilt glorifies God.

God's grace is sufficient for you. It is made perfect in your weaknesses (in your confessing your sins to Him), not in your self-righteousness. When you understand your need for God, you'll realize His grace, love, and mercy are unending, just like Him.

“And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

Boasting about your weaknesses (not self-preservation) in a way that shows others what God has done for you gives God glory. "I had this weakness, but God restored me from it." Shame and guilt are always working - one for your favor and the other for your isolation and eventual destruction. Choose God. With this in mind, what guilt do you have that you need to confess to God (and potentially other people) and ask for forgiveness?

Prayer:

Merciful Father, thank you that You are better than any earthly father or friend. Thank You that You point out our mistakes so that we can be spared the pain of unnecessary suffering and so we can be renewed to be more like You. You are unfailing in love, abounding in mercy, and without fault. Help us run away from the shame that separates us from You and lean in to the guilt that begs us to go to You - our faithful Father and Friend. Amen.

Worship:

“House of the Lord” by Phil Wickham <https://youtu.be/h8uKldEUrPE?si=BljufQ8URiTcBT4q> [\[youtu.be\]](#)

“His Mercy is More” by Keith and Kristyn Getty <https://youtu.be/I1GiZL60c80?si=TPujLeL8JZiZnzpd> [\[youtu.be\]](#)

“O Come To the Altar” by Elevation Worship https://youtu.be/rYQ5yXCc_CA?si=BtY5-pDZXxniZbPe [\[youtu.be\]](#)

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