

FEAR OF EXPOSURE

It is in man's sinful nature to hide, to conceal, even to deceive to keep others from seeing what we consider our weaknesses. Hiding our flaws, failures & weaknesses is so common it might even be a universal condition among mankind and is clearly an instinctive function. Concealing what we consider our failures, flaws & lesser characteristics finds its root in fear of what others might think of us. This fear manifests itself by the fabrication (over time) of "the mask" which is a defense mechanism to show the best & hide the rest. Larry Crabb describes this as the "sin of self-protection." The bible is full of examples of bel's who were commanded to examine themselves, to lay aside the mask that they might live genuine, transparent lives, but hid their heart of hearts instead.

Having eaten the fruit, A/E immediately realized they were naked; surrendered to fear of exposure; fabricated coverings & hid themselves from the presence of God in the garden.

(Gen 3:7-10) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. 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 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

- a. Their eyes were opened (knew right/wrong) knew they were naked – ashamed to be exposed
- b. Sewed fig leaves together to cover their loins – human system to cover up the problem
 - Sinful man covers up his problems to hide them from others – forms a pretense of rightness
 - Rather than face the truth about self, we prefer to hide self from self and from others
 - If we can successfully deceive others about our righteousness, sinful man is satisfied
 - God requires that we face our root problems & resolve them with truth, never pretending
- c. They hid from God – I was afraid because I was naked & hid myself
 - who told you that you were naked – in innocence nakedness was not an issue
- d. The goal of spiritual growth is to regain the capacity for absolute truth & fearless transparency
 - Prior to sin, they had no need to even know about nakedness – only eating from the tree
- e. The work of the cross has eliminated the penalty for sin and the need to be ashamed of our specific areas of weakness or past sins.
 - Prior to the cross penalty of sin & man's -R remained in effect making us worthy of 2nd death
 - The cross freed the Justice of God to impute +R & bless man with the wealth of Christ

Normal logic would expect A/E to run to God, asking for help, confessing their sin, open to whatever God wanted them to do. Instead, they take this unbearable burden on themselves, trying to resolve their spiritual death through sewing together & wearing leaves – the insanity of sin & OMBS.

The instinct (reflex) to protect one's self by concealing our flaws & weakness has passed to the whole human race (Rom 5:12) as evidenced by Peter's refusal to believe Jesus about the 3 denials.

(Matthew 26:31) Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.'³² "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."³³ But Peter answered and said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away."³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a cock crows, you shall deny Me three times."³⁵ Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too

- a. you will all fall away this night (Zach 13:7-9) Messianic prophecy written approx. 550 years prior

- Peter hears the biblical prophecy but decides that his human will & ability is more powerful
 - He hears Jesus prophecy about that very night & he rejects the word of Jesus
- b. After I have been resurrected – at this point they still believed that He was there to become King.
- Their continued faith in this false idea rendered them incapable of accepting the truth
 - The word of the resurrection went right over their heads – committed to false belief
- c. Peter: even if everyone else falls away I will never – he is stronger than all the rest, even prophecy
- Peter is committed to maintaining his mask of fearlessness & loyalty no matter who says what
- d. before rooster crows you will deny me 3X – Jesus gives him the heads up about the night
- e. even if I must die with you, I will never deny you; all the disciples said the same.
- They all had constructed a mask of bravery and loyalty that they believed about their self
 - They were all committed to “appear like” whatever would give them the approval of their peers.
 - Did they (Peter) even know who/what he really was behind the mask? That he would cut/run?

1. God’s essence & His plan operate totally on truth with nothing false in either – 1Jn 1:5

God is light (truth) and in Him is no darkness (false) at all – only absolute truth is compatible with Him

2. Man’s corrupted nature (OSN) operates on lies, false ideas & deceptions 2Cor 4:2-4

Eph 2:1-3 – born sp. dead & dominated by the devil, 1Cor 2:14 incapable of relating to God, 2Cor 4:4 sp. Blind, Rom 8:7 incapable of obedience to God, Jn 3:19-20 men love darkness to do evil deeds.

- Man, under influence of OSN instinctively avoids the truth, prefers to hide behind pretense
- Man, under OSN gauges worthiness based on the opinions of other people – 2Cor 10:12
- Man/OSN strives to create the “appearance of” to persuade others of our success – how it looks

3. The NM in Christ loves the light/truth because it frees him from slavery to the fear of death, fear of punishment from God & fear of what other people think.

Jn 8:32 – truth sets you free: 2Cor 5:21 – base worthiness on imputed +R, 1Jn 5:4 seek victory rather than success, 1Jn 4:8 mature love casts out fear

- The heart can’t hold 2 opposing views at the same time – one must go & the other must grow
- We must reject initial fleshly, worldly beliefs before we are able to use NM ideas
- NM establishes self-worth & spiritual victory by union with Christ 2Cor 5:21

4. Believer must reject & remove false beliefs from the soul (subconscious) to be replaced by true ideas from God’s word. Eph 4:20-24; did not learn Christ like this (vs 17-19 Reversionism) nor were you taught to live in this manner (life dominated by OMBS); 22 – taught take off corrupt OM beliefs to replace them with true NM beliefs – learn belief system of Christ, remove OM beliefs, replace NM

- Everything we learn/believe before salvation is either devil ideas or truth twisted to serve self.
- Every belief in OMBS must be removed/replaced or renovated to correct the motive behind it
- For our old beliefs to be removed, they must first be exposed so that we can see them operating

5. Subconscious: the accumulated layers of beliefs adopted by volition by joining the idea with faith, that are then habituated to function automatically in the appropriate circumstances, that are then relegated to the automatic functions of the soul where they are forgotten but continue to function.

- As beliefs are used they are habituated into automatic responses and then forgotten.

6. God has 2 programs for exposing & removing OM beliefs: one voluntary & one involuntary.

Voluntary: 1Cor 11:28 let a man examine self for sin that he might find the belief behind the sin

Involuntary: Lk 22:55-62 – God uses overwhelming circumstances to holler at His children