

RW360 Conference (2021)

Bio: Dennis Reiter

Dennis Reiter has ministered in Connecticut and New England for 48 years. He is a graduate of Wheaton College (B.A.) and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (M.Div., M.A., D.Min.). His ministries include the pastorate (two churches), seminary professor in pastoral theology, a prayer ministry leading churches in solemn assemblies, and Biblical peacemaking with churches, ministries and marriages. A mentor with Peacemaker Ministries, he has been part of teams that have trained people all across America and in six countries overseas: Turkey, Singapore, Malaysia, France, Grand Cayman Island and India. Dennis and Judy have been married 50 years, and they have three children and eight grandchildren. His hobbies are reading in many fields and traveling in America and overseas.

Workshop: “Honor-Shame and Shalom”

Our approach is from a broad theological framework: creation, the fall and redemption. We are created to give God glory and honor and to receive honor as those in the image of God, living in peace (shalom). With the fall into sin, people no longer glorify God. While there is still appropriate honor, sin corrupts honor in two ways: vainglory and sinful pride. With the entrance of sin there are two forms of shame: achieved shame arises from our own sinfulness, and ascribed shame arises from others devaluing us. Shalom is replaced by conflict with God, with others and within ourselves. But the triune God comes to redeem. The work of the Father is portrayed in the parable of the father and two sons. The Son redeems honor through humility and endures ascribed shame on His path to the cross, providing not only forgiveness but the honor of adoption. The Spirit enables us to experience honor and overcome the shame of persecution. Shalom is given to our hearts and relationships. We close with a joint declaration: “Proclaiming the Gospel with Adoption in Christ.”

Additional Notes

1. When I send some materials to Dave by regular mail, I will include two pages that go with this workshop. “Proclaiming the Gospel with Adoption in Christ” and “Questions for Discussion and Application” (which I developed when I gave this talk at the Wycliffe Bible Conference in India in June 2017).
2. I have no “high quality photos” made of me. So here are two options. You could go to our church’s website – www.baptistfellowship.life – look for “About Us” (under which is “Staff”) with a picture of me with Judy and Andy. Use all three of us or just my face. If that does not work out, we have a woman in church who was a professional in photography, and we can ask her to come up with some “high quality photos” for RW.

Honor-Shame and Shalom

Rev. Dennis L. Reiter, DMin

Introductory Thoughts

In the last 20 years there has been a cultural shift on three topics I will be looking at in today's presentation.

We all appreciate receiving Honor, and we all desire to avoid Shame.

Three Key Concepts.

Honor: Respect & value "in the eyes of" God – Others – our own Heart.

Shame: Failure & disrespect "in the eyes of" God – Others – our own Heart.

Shalom: Wholeness bringing delight: with God – with Others – within our Heart.

Broad theological framework: Creation – Fall into Sin – Redemption.

Glory and Honor at Creation

A. Men and Women are Created to Receive Honor

Genesis 1:27

Psalm 8:5

Psalm 8:6

Shalom between God and Adam & Eve

Shalom between Adam & Eve

Shalom within godly hearts of Adam & Eve

B. Men and Women are Created to Give Glory and Honor to God

"The fear of the LORD"

Isaiah 11:3

Psalm 86:11

C. The Absence of Shame

Genesis 2:25

Honor and Shame After the Fall into Sin

A. Sin Turns People Away from the Fear of the LORD

Romans 1:21

Romans 3:10-18

Sin destroys Shalom between us and God

Isaiah 59:2

B. Achieved Shame: Arises from our own Sinfulness

1. Feeling morally naked with the fear of being exposed.

Genesis 3:7

Genesis 3:8,10

Job 31:33-34

2. Feeling morally unclean, unholy, unworthy & unacceptable.

Isaiah 64:6

Mark 7:20-23

3. Feeling like an outcast, rejected, and isolated from community.

Genesis 3:23-24

Matthew 8:12

C. Appropriate Honor vs. Corrupted Honor

1. Appropriate Honor, even in a fallen world.

Exodus 20:12 Ephesians 5:33 I Peter 3:7 Romans 13:7

Small Group Discussion

Reflect on the issue of appropriate honor, the matter of respect and status. Every social group and culture has an “honor code” that establishes how respect is shown. In what ways is honor shown in your family? Shown in your church or ministry? Give an example, in any setting, when you received honor or were shown respect.

2. Corrupted Honor: Vainglory

Philippians 2:3

3. Corrupted Honor: Sinful pride or arrogant superiority.

Proverbs 6:16-17

Luke 18:11

Out of this pride comes a second form of Shame: Ascribed Shame.

D. Ascribed Shame: Arises from Others Sinning Against Us or Devaluing Us

1. No moral fault, but treated as inferior, unworthy, unclean & socially separated.

2. Job: Honored by God but treated with Ascribed Shame by people.

Job 1:8

Job 10:15 & 19:14-15

3. No genuine Shalom if see people as “inferiors” & treat with Ascribed Shame.

Honor and Shame under God’s Redemptive Work

A. God the Father: Parable of a Father and Two Sons

Luke 15:11-32

1. Each son, in different ways, dishonored their father – Achieved Shame.

2. The father endured the social judgment of villagers – Ascribed Shame.

3. Redeeming love is more powerful than both forms of Shame!

4. Repentant son was restored to the Honor of sonship and experienced Shalom with his father and others.

B. Son of God: Savior who Shared His Human Sonship (Adoption)

1. Jesus redeemed Honor through perfect humility.

Proverbs 15:33

Philippians 2:8-9

2. Sinless Savior bore all our sin & Achieved Shame on the cross. *I Peter 3:18*

a. Our moral nakedness is covered. *Isaiah 61:10*

b. Our moral uncleanness is cleansed. *I John 1:9*

c. Our rejection is replaced by adoption. *I John 3:1*

3. Jesus endured much Ascribed Shame, but He despised it.

Matthew 1:24-25

John 1:46

Matthew 26:73

John 8:48

Matthew 11:19

Luke 19:7

Mark 14:42-46

Luke 22:54-62

John 18:13-14

John 18:19-24

John 18:28-38

Luke 23:6-12

Mark 15:15-20

Mark 15:20-22

Matthew 27:35-44

Isaiah 53:3

Hebrews 12:2

Small Group Discussion

Focusing on the range and intensity of “Ascribed Shame” the Lord Jesus experienced, how can this encourage us to trust Him when others “shame” us when we do what is truly pleasing in God’s eyes (e.g., godly behavior or gospel witness)?

4. Justification is our primary blessing, but adoption is our highest blessing.

a. Adoption establishes Honor.

Ephesians 1:5

Romans 8:17

b. Adoption heals Shame.

I Thessalonians 1:4

I Peter 1:22

c. Shalom is created and strengthened between brothers & sisters in Christ.

Small Group Discussion

“How good & pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1). There are many “one another” passages in Scripture (“through love serve. . . encourage. . . pray for. . . give preference to. . .”). In what ways have you been enriched and blessed by living together with brothers and sisters in the family of God?

C. Holy Spirit: Indwelling Presence in our Heart.

1. Enables us to experience the Honor of our status as sons.

Galatians 4:6

2. Gives us the experience of Honor when we face Ascribed Shame.

I Peter 4:14

Acts 5:41

Proclaiming the Gospel with Adoption in Christ

We need to hear this from each other. We need to share this with each other.

To close our session, we will stand and declare this in unison

Proclaiming the Gospel with Adoption in Christ

As you come with a repentant heart, receive the message of the gospel.

God has loved you with an everlasting love,
and so loved the world that He sent His Son to be your Savior.

Humbling Himself to die on the cross,
Jesus endured God's righteous anger against your sin and your shame.

Do you believe the Scripture, *"Christ died for sins once for all,
the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18)?*

Do you believe God's promise, *"If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)?*

Because you have repented of your sin and trusted in God's Son
He forgives your sin and removes your shame from His eyes.

Here is God's assurance: *"There is now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).*

No longer do you need to fear exposure or sense uncleanness.

He lavishes a Father's love on you, adopting you into His family and
giving you the honorable status of a child of God.

Let any rejection be replaced by the acceptance and love
from your brothers and sisters in Christ.

He will strengthen your desire and ability to reverently fear His name
and to glorify God in everything you do.

Respond to the Holy Spirit as He enables you to continually pray
"Abba! Father!"

Now rest in God unfailing love for you through the Lord Jesus.