

Romans 1:16 (ESV)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

A. The world will try to shame those who believe the gospel

John 15:18-19 (ESV)

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

B. Jesus' suffered the shame of the cross. (Isaiah 50:6; 53:3)

Isaiah 50:6 (ESV)

⁶I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace (shame) and spitting.

C. Paul understood that to follow Jesus means sharing in His suffering.

Philippians 1:29-30 (ESV)

"For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

Paul endured shame because of His commitment to the gospel. (2 Corinthians 11:24-27)

D. Like Jesus and Paul, we will face shame because of the gospel (2 Tim 1:8-12)

1 Peter 4:14-16 (ESV)

"If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Let if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name."

As a follower of Christ we are to stand with him unashamedly in a world that finds His gospel shameful.

WARNING! *Luke 9:26 (ESV) "For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."*

D. How do we handle the shame of the gospel so we are not ashamed of the gospel?

When you are shamed for the gospel...

1. Despise the shame (Hebrews 12:2)
2. Remember suffering with/for Christ brings glory, not shame. (Romans 8:16-18)
3. Rely on the power of God's Holy Spirit, for we share in the suffering for the gospel by the power of God. (2 Timothy 1:7-8)
4. Trust that God is strong enough to help you remain faithful to the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:12)
5. Don't be ashamed of the gospel because the gospel is the power of God to transform lives. (Romans 1:16)

You may be shamed because of the gospel
but you never need be ashamed of the gospel.

