

Unashamed of Christ

I. Introduction

- A. After stressing the need to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Jesus, the Lord stresses the *worth* of choosing to follow Him. In this context, He shows that those who instead choose to be *ashamed* of Him and His words will face eternal punishment. While any *sin* in one's life *should* lead to shame (**Rom. 6:21**), living for Christ should *not*. Consider some things Scripture teaches related to the theme of being unashamed of Christ. **Mark 8:38**

II. Unashamed of the Gospel of Christ

- A. The apostle Paul twice uses the phrase "I am not ashamed." One instance in which he does this exemplifies our need to be unashamed of the *Gospel* of Christ. **Romans 1:16**
- B. While some are too embarrassed to share the truth of Jesus, Paul shows that there is no reason for this. In fact, the Gospel is something we can *boast* about. **Galatians 6:14**
- C. We should have an eagerness to share the wonderful news of salvation. The Gospel is God's cure for the greatest problem man has faced, and offers unspeakable joy, peace that surpasses understanding, and steadfast hope for any who choose to accept it. **1 Peter 3:15**

III. Unashamed to Change for Christ

- A. When the Gospel gets into one's heart, it produces drastic *changes* in his or her life. **Romans 6:4 (12:2)**
- B. Just as we should not be ashamed to declare our allegiance to Christ, we should not be ashamed of *changes* made in submission to Him. No regrets, guilt, or shame ought to accompany the beautiful choice to leave the darkness and come to the light. **1 Peter 2:9**

IV. Unashamed to Be Different for Christ

- A. Changing as God requires involves being set apart from the world for God's glory. Such a transformation leads faithful Christians to be significantly *different* from the majority of the people. **1 Peter 2:9; 4:3-4**
- B. Instead of being ashamed of these differences, we should seek to use such differences for God's glory and the benefit of others. Hiding the wonderful effects Christ has had on our lives is like hiding a lamp under a basket. **Matthew 5:16**

V. Unashamed to Suffer for Christ

- A. When Christ means the world to us and we allow His Word to transform us, we can expect to *suffer*. Suffering for Christ's sake should not make us feel regret or shame. Instead, we can lean on the One who strengthens His faithful children. **1 Peter 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:8, 12a**

VI. Unashamed and Strengthened By Christ

- A. This alludes to the One who is the key to following Christ without shame. Being on the Lord's side is worth far more than having the entire world side with us. As the apostle Paul said, "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*" **2 Timothy 1:12b; Romans 8:31**

VII. Conclusion

- A. The Gospel of Christ is often unpopular. Changing as God requires is not always understood. Being different from the world is not always easy, and suffering for Christ is not pleasant. Yet, we must not be ashamed of Him, but look to His strength, and remember the severity of the punishment that will be rendered against those who are ashamed of Christ and His words. **Mark 8:38**