

LIVING OUT the GOOD NEWS in HONOR and SHAME CULTURES

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The Crucifixion seems shocking and even
impossible to most from an
Honor-Shame cultural background.

To Christ-followers, it shows the glory of a God who honors
humankind by dying for us.

In Revelation, we see Jesus honored and shame defeated.
Christ-followers are honored
to enter the City of God.

The gospel story ends with an act of honor.

No photos or
videos during this
seminar, please

GENESIS 1-3

So God created humankind

in His own image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

(1:27)



GENESIS 1

Rule (NIV) Govern (NLT)

over every living thing....." (1:28)



GENESIS 2

Adam and his wife were both **naked** and they felt **no shame**. (2:25)



GENESIS 2-3

"...God commanded..., "you may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat..." (2:6-7a)

She took some of the fruit and ate it.
Then she gave some to her husband...
and he ate it, too. (3:6)



GENESIS 3

Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realized they were naked; so they... **made coverings** for themselves." (7)

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God...walking in the garden...and they hid from the LORD God..... But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was **afraid...**(8-10)



GENESIS 1-3

The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it" (3:12)



3 Responses to Sin (Genesis 3):

guilt, fear and shame

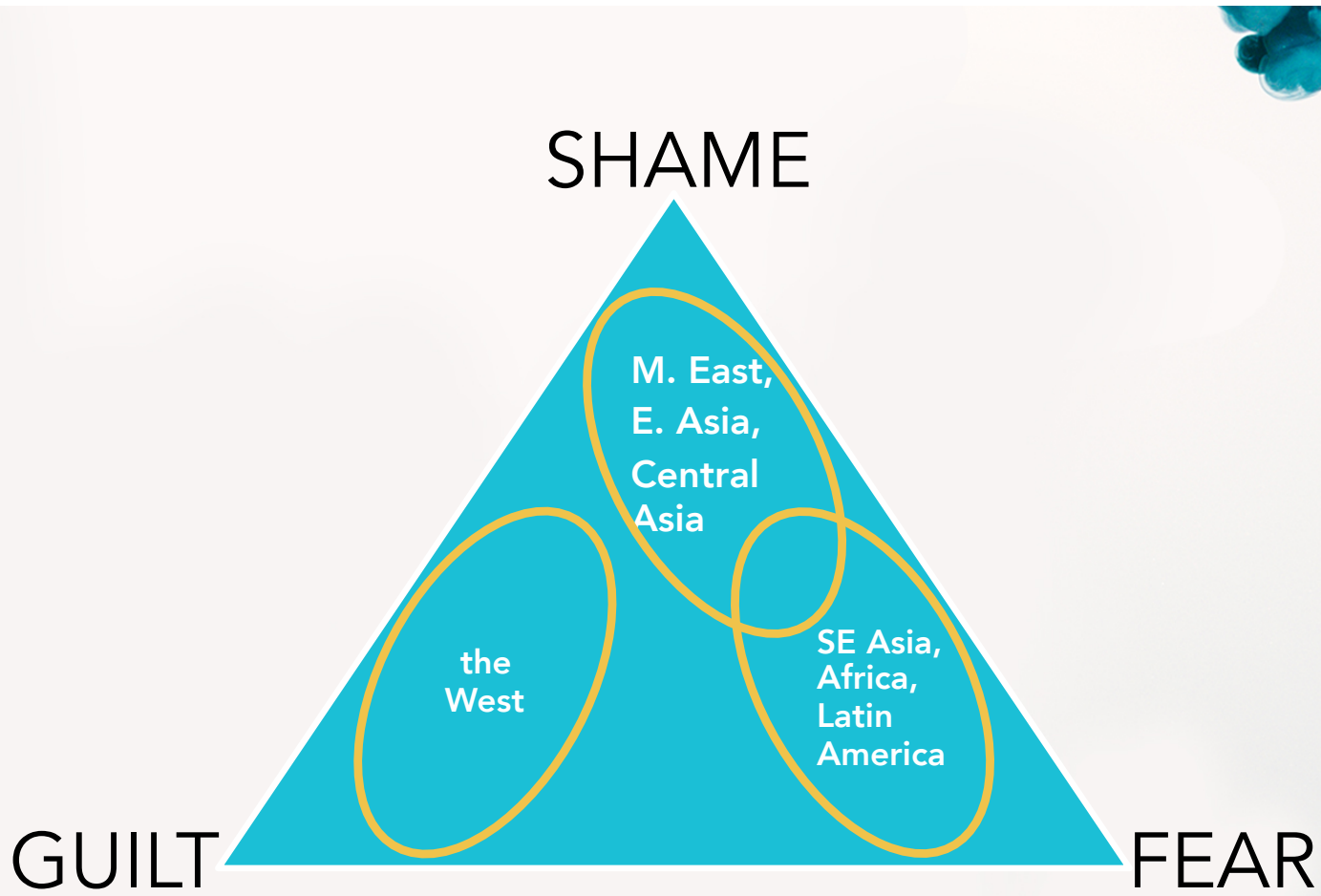
Foundation for 3 types of cultures:

Innocence/ Guilt

Power / Fear

Honor / Shame





EAST – WEST COMPARISON

	Guilt-Based / West	Shame-Based Cultures / East
Decisions:	Individualistic internal	Communal External
Norm or Standards:	Rules Laws	Relationships Roles
Core problem:	Unseen "I made a mistake" (action)	Seen "I am a mistake" (being)
Violator's Response:	Justify Apologize blame	Hide, disappear compensate /repay



CASE STUDY

Anna, an American student, invited 5 friends to an evangelistic retreat. They all said “yes”! One of her friends, Yuki, was a Japanese international student.

The speaker explained that Jesus can take away our guilt and invited students to make a personal decision to follow Jesus by standing up. Half the room stood up and so did Anna’s other friends. Yuki stood up, too.

Anna was elated, only to learn later through another friend that Yuki hadn’t actually begun following Jesus. In fact, Yuki avoided Anna after the retreat.

How do you see honor and shame played out?
Discuss in 2’s & 3’s (1.5 min)





www.mhs.no/arkiv/article?185



www.deepertruthblog.com/blogsite/the-catholic-defender-our-entitlement-generation/



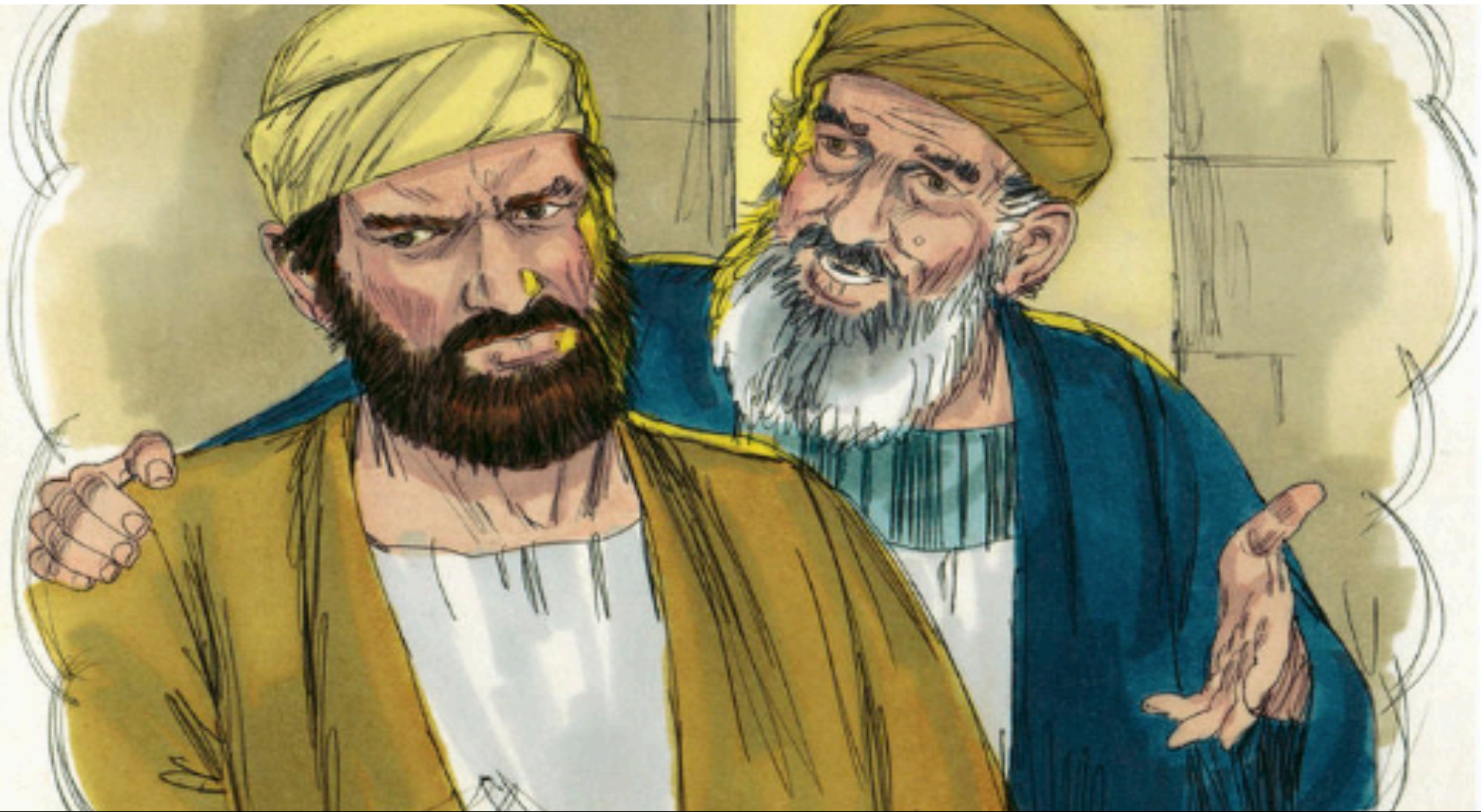
[www.englishcompass.org/articles/
the_prodigal_son](http://www.englishcompass.org/articles/the_prodigal_son)



www.englishcompass.org/articles/the_prodigal_son



www.mhs.no/arkiv/article?185



<http://dowym.com/resources/guided-reflection-the-prodigal-son-parable-older-son-perspective/>

Luke 15 Story: Discussion in 2's & 3's (3 min)

- What are the dynamics and consequences of shame in this story? In our world?
- What do we learn about the Father?
- What is the “Good News” in this story?



GODLY SHAME

Defined by God's standards
Ps 4:2, Rom.1:26-32, Rev 21:27

Triggered by awareness of our true sinfulness and rebellion
Daniel 9:8
Zephaniah 3:5

Leads to conviction of our shortcomings, repentance, and gratitude towards God
Ps 83.16
2 Cor 7:10

TOXIC SHAME

Defined by worldly standards
Rom 1:16

Triggered by circumstances (race, class) or events (performance, victimization)

Leads to hiding, blaming & retaliation



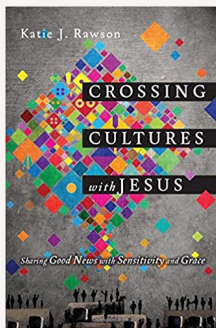
GODLY SHAME	CULTURAL SHAME	TOXIC SHAME
Defined by God's standards	Defined by cultural standards – reflects God's standards + worldly standards	Defined by worldly standards
Rooted in awareness of our true sinfulness and rebellion	Rooted in deviation from cultural norms and expectations	Rooted in circumstances (race, class, appearance...) or events (performance, abandonment or victimization)
Leads to conviction of our sin and shortcomings, and to gratitude for God's provision	Leads to both positive and negative reactions	Leads to hiding, blaming, and destruction



FACE

Face is the social currency of honor/
shame contexts

“the sense of self-respect or dignity a person has ... that **maintains social relationships**. In collectivist societies, maintaining the face ... of self and others often ranks as **the highest value.**”



- Rawson, Crossing Cultures with Jesus, 97



FACE

Ways of giving face:

- Eating a meal together
- Hosting well
- Helping surface the strengths of an individual or group, as in a project



FACE

Causes of loss of face

- Blaming or suggesting someone has made an error, especially directly
- Being unable to fulfill your duty, or say yes to a request
- Shameful actions by others in your family/community



HONOR, SHAME, AND THE BIG STORY

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HONOR, SHAME, AND THE BIG STORY

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"We were created with honor."



"We're covered with shame."



"We're sent together to heal."



"Jesus restores honor."



What is helpful?

What is unclear?

How could you use this diagram in your ministry?

MINISTRY VALUES & ACTIVITIES FOR HONOR/SHAME CONTEXTS



MINISTRY VALUES & ACTIVITIES FOR HONOR/SHAME CONTEXTS

If your ministry was focused on people from Honor/Shame contexts, what key values and activities would be important?



MINISTRY VALUES & ACTIVITIES FOR HONOR/SHAME CONTEXTS

Values



MINISTRY VALUES & ACTIVITIES FOR HONOR/SHAME CONTEXTS

Values

- Following **social mores** that honor, including greetings and recognizing one another
- Creating **genuine community**, a surrogate family
- Belonging before believing, a **process** view of conversion
- Culture and **family of origin** pre-, during, and post-conversion
- **Continued learning** about honor/shame theology and praxis



MINISTRY VALUES & ACTIVITIES FOR HONOR/SHAME CONTEXTS

Activities



MINISTRY VALUES & ACTIVITIES FOR HONOR/SHAME CONTEXTS

Activities

- **Meals, homes, and small groups** = intimate communities, holistically involved for all parts of life
- **Gift-giving, hosting and visiting** = relationships that honor
- **Discipleship in practical life issues:** family, marriage, baptism, community, finances...
- **Gospel presentations and language** that touch felt needs and questions

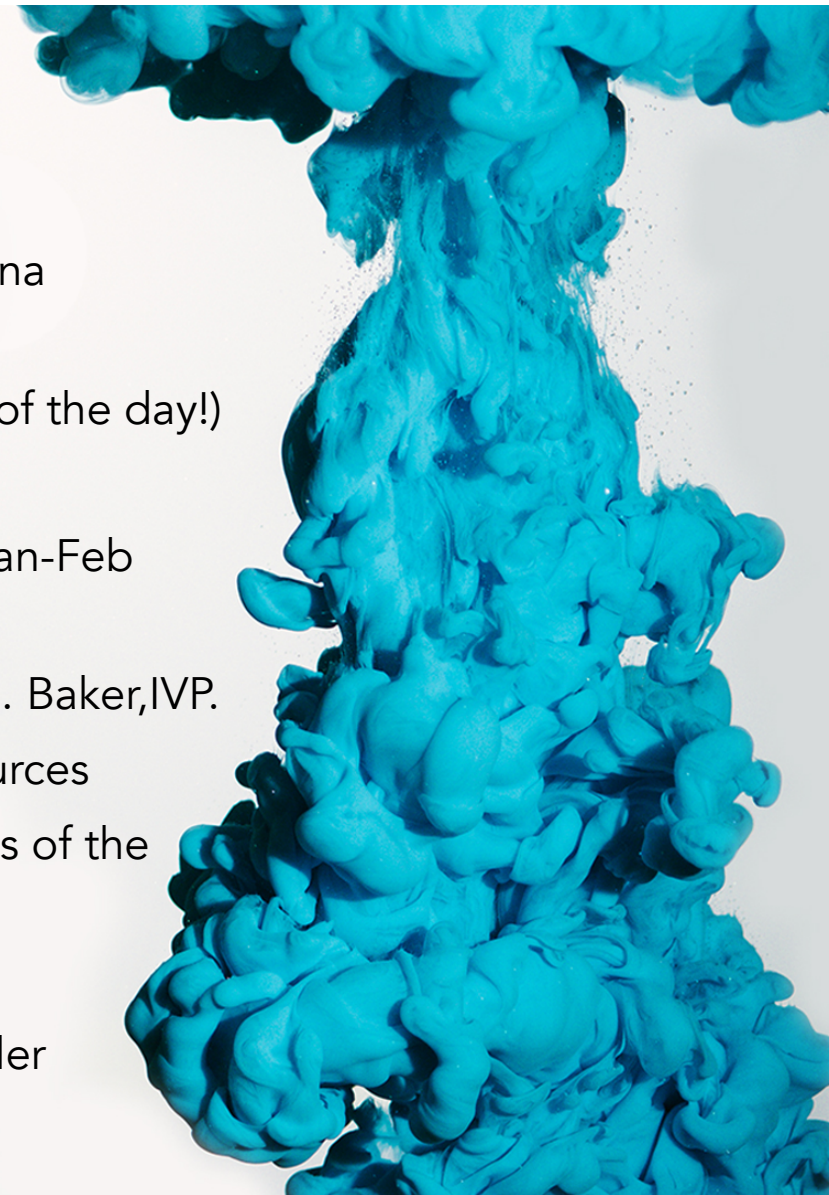


Top Recommended Resources

- werner-mischke.org (esp. on Scripture & Hermeneutics)
- honorshame.com & *The 3D Gospel*, Jayson Georges (Urbana bookstore)
- *Crossing Cultures with Jesus*, Katie Rawson (Urbana book of the day!)

References & Secondary Recommended Resources

- MISSION FRONTIERS MAGAZINE: The Power of Honor, Jan-Feb 2015 Issue
- *Ministering in Honor Shame Culture*, by Georges & Mark D. Baker, IVP.
- *The Global Gospel* by Werner Mischke, Mission One Resources
- *Proclaiming the Scandal of the Cross*, contemporary Images of the Atonement. ed. Mark D. Baker, IVP
- *The Cross and the Prodigal* by Kenneth Bailey, IVP
- *Honor & Shame: Unlocking the Door (2001)* by Roland Muller



Get **coaching** with InterVarsity!



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Muslim Ministry Next Steps:



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Q/A, prayer ministry afterward

