

At Christmas, God honors the human race by taking on human flesh. The Sovereign Creator of the universe humbles Himself to become a man.

The Incarnation is shocking-even blasphemous-to Muslims. But to Christians, it shows the glory of God: the gospel story opens with an act of honor.



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The Gospel Through an Honor/Shame Lens

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Genesis 1 - 3

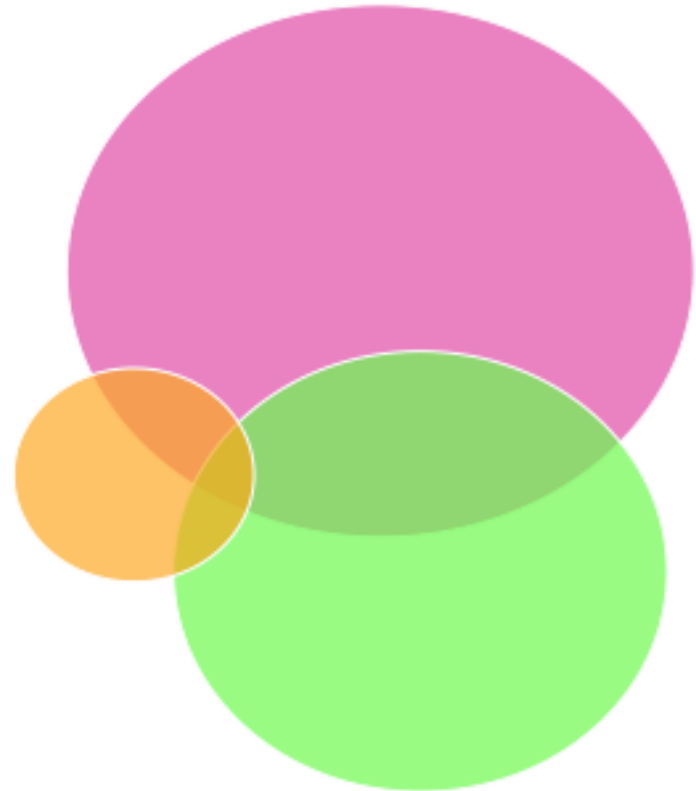
- “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (1:27)
- “Adam and his wife were both naked and they felt no shame.” (2:25)

- “Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.” (3:7)
- “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” (3:8-10)

Christian missiologists identify 3 responses to sin in human cultures: guilt, shame, and fear. (Genesis 3) These 3 moral emotions have become the foundation for 3 types of cultures...." (Georges, 11)

- Innocence/ Guilt
- Honor / Shame
- Power / Fear

- Innocence/Guilt
- Honor/Shame
- Power/Fear





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Discussion in 2's & 3's

In this story....

- How do you see honor and shame played out?
- What do you learn about shame?
- How would you describe God, esp. in respect to honor and shame?

Luke 15 Summary

- Our deep desire for honor and avoidance of shame are the roots of our action

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- There are two kinds of shame: Healthy & unhealthy

HEALTHY SHAME

- Comes from an awareness of our true sinfulness & rebellion
- Generally defined by God's standards
- Leads to conviction of our sin & shortcomings, & to gratitude for God's provision

UNHEALTHY SHAME

- Comes from circumstances (appearance, race, class...) or events (performance, experience of abandonment or victimization)
- Generally defined by worldly standards
- Leads to hiding, blaming, & retaliation (shaming others etc.)

Luke 15 Summary

- Our deep desire for honor and avoidance of shame are the roots of our actions
- Honor/shame is communal – expressed in relationship to others
- There are two kinds of shame: Healthy & unhealthy
- God provides solution: He suffers shame so we can have honor & restored relationships

Scriptures

- Isaiah 52:13 – 53:6
- Psalm 34:1- 8
- Luke 7: 36 -50
- Hebrews 11:24 - 29; 12:1-3
- Revelation 19:6 - 10

Discussion in 2's & 3's

In these passages....

- How do you see honor and shame played out and/or described?
- What do you learn about shame?
- How would you summarize this passage, especially in respect to honor and shame?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

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- EXPERIENCE God's Honor & Healing

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- SEE Scripture with New Eyes

RESOURCES

Online:

5 types of honor shame cultures: <http://honorshame.com/types-honor-shame-cultures/>

Overview & culture test: honorshame.com

Helpful Articles: MISSION FRONTIER MAGAZINE: The Power of Honor, Jan-Feb 2015 Issue

Scripture themes <http://wernerischke.org/>

Chinese <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jacksonwu/>

Books:

3D Gospel, Jayson Georges (Urbana bookstore)

Crossing Cultures with Jesus, Katie Rawson (Urbana bookstore)

Honor and Shame, Roland Mueller

Talk to us at InterVarsity ISM booth in Exhibit Hall -
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Q & A

At Christmas, God honors the human race by taking on human flesh. The Sovereign Creator of the universe humbles Himself to become a man.

The Incarnation is shocking- even blasphemous- to most Muslims. But to Christians it shows the glory of God: the gospel story opens with an act of honor.

The Crucifixion seems shocking-even impossible- to Muslims. But to believers it shows the glory of a God who honors humankind by dying for us.

In the Resurrection, Jesus is honored and shame is defeated. Humankind is honored with the invitation to become a part of God's family. The gospel story ends with an act of honor.