

The Gospel Through an Honor/Shame Lens

Understanding Guilt and Shame Based Cultures

	Guilt-Based Cultures	Shame-based Cultures
Normal defined by	Rules and laws	Relationships & Roles
Behavior guided by	Internal conscience	External Community
Core problem	"I made a mistake" (action)	"I am a mistake" (being)
Violations Affect	The transgressor	The group
Violator's Response	Justify or apologize	Hide or cover
Way for Resolution	Forgiveness	Restoration

Types of Shame

Toxic Shame	Cultural Shame	Godly Shame
Defined by worldly standards Appearance on IG or Tiktok, likes on Facebook	Defined by cultural standards (cultural "code of honor"), reflects a mix of God's and worldly standards	Defined by God's standards
Caused by circumstances (race, class, victimization etc.) Racial discrimination, poverty, sexual assault, performance.	Caused by deviation from cultural norms and expectations	Caused by awareness of our true sinfulness and rebellion
Results in hiding, blaming & retaliation Bullying that leads to harming self (suicide) or others (mass shootings).	Results can be positive or negative	Results in conviction of our sin and shortcomings, and gratitude for God's provision

Additional Resources

Online Resources

The Big Story through an Honor/Shame lens: <http://tiny.cc/honorshamegospel>

Resource hub & culture test: www.honorshame.com

More articles & stories: www.wernermischke.org/

Chinese context: www.patheos.com/blogs/jacksonwu/

Books

3D Gospel, Jason Georges

Ministering in Honor-Shame Cultures, Jason Georges and Mark Baker

Crossing Cultures with Jesus, Katie Rawson

Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes, Brandon J O'Brien and E. Richards

Seeking God's Face: Practical Reflections on Honor and Shame in Scripture, Jackson Wu & Ryan Jensen (Not at Urbana Bookstore)

Honor and Shame, Roland Mueller (Not at Urbana bookstore)

Stay Connected

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