

Message Notes

Beauty from Ashes

Introduction – *“Why are these people getting dunked today?”*

What is Baptism?

It is the public declaration and outward expression of the believer’s inner reality, volitionally done to symbolize a person’s entrance into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

What is being symbolized in baptism?

Romans 6:1-4

Today’s Message:

*Beauty from Ashes:
Hope for the sexually fallen*

How’d we get into this mess?

Phases of Healing:

1. Let Shame do it’s job

Genesis 2:25-3:13

2. Confession and Repentance

1 John 1:8-9

3. Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel!

1 Peter 2:4-6, 9-10

4. Get out of the darkness of aloneness

James 5:16

5. Run! Hide! Fight!

1 Timothy 6:11-12

A word of Hope

A special word to those who are victims of sexual sin:

Hebrews 12:1-3

Gospel Application – *“Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel!”*

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Genesis 2:25 - 3:1, 8-13

²⁵Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals...

⁸Then 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. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

1 John 1:8-9

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

1 Timothy 6:11-12

¹¹But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



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Romans 6:1-4

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.



HUGE
POINT!! Declarati
on of the
believer's union
with Christ

HOLY SEX

it's just

SEX

Gospel Sexuality

God created sex
to be received as a gift
and experienced at his direction
for ever-increasing intimacy and benefit.

**AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF HIS
RELATIONSHIP WITH US**

This week's message:

Beauty from Ashes:

Hope for the Sexually Fallen

How'd we get in this mess?

Genesis 2:25 - 3:13

²⁵Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

How'd we get in this mess?

Genesis 2:25 - 3:13

⁴“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.

⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then 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.



SHAME



I DO NOT LIKE THE CONE OF SHAME.

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¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman
“What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

“An uncomfortable feeling of guilt and humiliation, usually arising from sin or failure.”



SHAME

~ Martin H. Manser, *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies* (London: Martin Manser, 2009).

When you can't
face the shame,
You always move
to blame.

~ Rob Boyd



SHAME

Beauty



FROM

ASHES

5 Phases of Healing

**1. Let Shame do its
work in your life**



SHAME

A continued look at Genesis 3 shows that as soon as Adam and Eve sinned against God, they experienced internal shame, guilt, and brokenness. They suffered the natural consequences of working against their design. 'They realized they were naked' (verse 7). This is the opposite of verse 25 in chapter 2, where we read that Adam and Eve had been, as we often put it today, 'naked and *unashamed*.' Old Testament scholar David Atkinson writes: 'Shame... is that sense of unease with yourself at the heart of your being.' We know there is something wrong with us, but we can't admit it or identify it. There is a deep restlessness which can take various forms – guilt and striving to prove ourselves, rebellion and the need to assert



our independence, compliance and the need to please others. Something is wrong, and we may know the effects, but we fall short of understanding the true causes.

Contemporary Western culture tries to account for this restlessness without recourse to the biblical doctrine of sin. Psychologists help us understand the part our early childhoods have played in creating unnecessary shame or a sense of being unloved. Entertainment distracts us from our discomfort. And doing good helps bolster our identity as a good person. But the Bible locates the root issue as our separation from God.

~ Timothy Keller, *Every Good Endeavor*, pages 78-79.



C O N F E S S I O N

2. Confession and Repentance

1 John 1:8-9

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**CONFESSION IS
THE FIRST STEP
TO REPENTANCE.**

- ENGLISH PROVERB

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we would plead with you to forgive our sins, and open our eyes to your truth. Forgive us for the sin of pride, when we see ourselves as innocent when we are guilty, pure when we are stained, and superior when we are no better than others. Forgive us for the sin of greed, when we clutch tightly to what is our own, instead of sharing with those in need. We blame the unnamed poor as responsible for their own poverty, but see our unemployed family and friends as victims of others. We insist on our own way, believing we see truth more clearly than anyone else, even when our attitudes and opinions are in clear conflict with the Bible. Lord, have mercy upon us, and save us from our blind and willful descent into sin.

(Silent prayer and personal confession)

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(Silent prayer and personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Friends, Believe the Good News
of the Gospel

GO THE GOSPEL!

Hear It Believe It Live It

3. Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel

1 Peter 2:4-6, 9-10

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him — ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” [Isaiah 28:16]

3. Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel

1 Peter 2:4-6, 9-10

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



KEEP CALM

'CAUSE

YOU ARE

NOT

ALONE

4. Get out of the darkness of aloneness

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

A close-up, dark blue-tinted photograph of a police helmet. The helmet has a microphone and a badge. The word "POLICE" is partially visible on the side.

RUN

A dark blue-tinted photograph of a police desk. A magnifying glass is on the left. In the background, there are "ARREST DESCRIPTION FORMS".

HIDE

A dark blue-tinted photograph of a police badge. The badge is circular and features a building illustration. The text "UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH" and "POLICE" is visible on the badge.

FIGHT

5. Run! Hide! Fight!

1 Timothy 6:11-12

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

A word of...



HOPE

A word of hope for those who are victims of sexual sin...

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

ACCOUNTABILITY + IDENTITY IN CHRIST + FREEDOM IN THE GOSPEL

HOLY SEX

FIGHTING SIN TOGETHER

JANUARY 30 - MARCH 6
MONDAY NIGHTS 7PM

HOPECC.COM/HOLYSEX OR ON THE CITY

Gospel Application

Gospel Application

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel!