

# **NO NEED FOR SHAME OR APOLOGY**

**1Pet.4:12-16**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Even though Israel of old often lived a shameful life they refused to recognize it or admit. In fact, Jeremiah said they were not ashamed when they committed abomination, “they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush,” Jer.6:15.
2. He said in Jer.3:3: “...and thou hadst a whore’s forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.”
3. So God’s people of old lived a life of shame and had need of apology or an explanation by way of amends, or in biblical terms, that which would include repentance and confession.
4. The same may be true of some of God’s people today.
  - a. Such as when we have lost our temper and lost control of our tongue, our speech and actions, and either have wronged another or have set the wrong example. Then we should feel shame, should repent, apologize, and ask forgiveness.
  - b. This is also true of you and me when we have committed any sin.
  - c. Rom.6;21.
5. However, there are many righteous actions for which we need feel no shame, nor repent of, nor feel any need to apologize to anyone for such action. This is true in spite of the fact that some who are weak in faith, or the untaught, as well as those who are of a compromising disposition, might insist we should do to!
6. No shame should ever be felt, no repentance is necessary, and no apology need ever be made when we do that which is right in God’s sight and even required by God’s will.
7. In fact, we, like the apostles in Ac.5:41, should rejoice and count it an honor if and when we are treated shamefully or insulted for the name of Jesus, whether it be in word (Jno.8:48,49), or in deed (Mk.12:4). See 1Pet.4:12-16.

## **II. DISCUSSION**

### **A. THERE IS NO NEED FOR SHAME OR APOLOGY FOR SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN.**

1. Not all suffering is blessed, 1Pet.4:15.

2. It is suffering “as a Christian” that is blessed, and for which there is no shame, 1Pet.4:14,16; Cf. Ac.11:26; Jas.2:7; Mt.5:10-12; Rom.9:33.
  3. Suffering in and of itself has no spiritual value; but suffering for righteousness sake (on account of) or for Christ’s sake (on account of), is always blessed.
  4. Suffering as a Christian means the suffering to be endured as a follower of Christ, whatever they are, however or why ever they come, Ac.9:16; 2Cor.1:6; Gal.3:4; Phil.1:29; 1Th.2:14; 2Th.1:5; 2Tim.1:12; 1Pet.3:14-17; 5:8-10; Rev.2:10; 12:11.
  5. There is nothing we are called upon to believe or practice or oppose for which we need be ashamed, repent of, or apologize for if an when we are suffering as a Christian for Christ’s sake!
- B. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF OR TO APOLOGIZE FOR BELIEVING AND TEACHING THE TRUTHS TAUGHT IN Eph.4:4-6. Cf. 1:22,23; Jude3; 1Cor.8:4-6; Gal.1:6-12,20-23; 1Cor.2:1,2; 15:1,2. See Rom.1:14-16; 2Tim.1:11,12; Phil.1:20.**
- C. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF OR TO APOLOGIZE FOR BELIEVING AND TEACHING THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BE SAVED AND TO BE IN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH AND HAVE ANY HOPE OF HEAVEN IS BY BELIEVING AND OBEYING THE GOSPEL AS TAUGHT IN 1Cor.15:1,2; Gal.1:6-12; 1Pet.4:17,18; 2Th.1:6-10; Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38; Rom.6:3-6; Gal.3:26,27.**
- D. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF OR TO APOLOGIZE FOR BELIEVING AND TEACHING THERE IS ONLY ONE SCRIPTURAL CAUSE FOR DIVORCE, AND THAT IS FOR FORNICATION ON THE PART OF THE GUILTY PARTY AND THE REASON FOR DIVORCING THE GUILTY PARTY, Mt.5:32; 19:3-6,9; 1Cor.7:10-13 (Cf. vv.2-5).**
1. Cf. Mal.2:16 – God hates “putting away”. Why? Because it always involves sin on the part of at least one party to the marriage covenant. And God hates sin.
- E. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF OR TO APOLOGIZE FOR BELIEVING AND TEACHING THAT WHEN ONE DIVORCES A SPOUSE FOR A CAUSE OTHER THAN FORNICATION AND**

**MARRIES ANOTHER, OR MARRIES A PUT AWAY SPOUSE, HE/SHE COMMITS ADULTERY, Mt.19:9; Lk.16:18.**

**F. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF OR TO APOLOGIZE FOR TEACHING AND PRACTICING CONGREGATIONAL DISCIPLINE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.**

1. First, to warn, reprove and rebuke the unruly, 1th.4:12-14; 1Tim.5:19,20; 2Tim.4:1-5; Tit.2:15.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup>, seek to restore those “overtaken in a fault,” Gal.6:1; Jas.1:19,20.
3. 3<sup>rd</sup>, withdraw from those walking disorderly who refuse to repent, 1Cor.5:1-13; 2Th.3:6; Cf. Mt.18:15-18; 1Tim.1:18-20.
4. 4<sup>th</sup>, recognize the apostate condition of those who are incorrigible, beyond correction, Heb.6:4-6; 10:26-29; Eph.4:17-19; Heb.3:13; Jude 4,10-13,16-19; 1Jno.2:18-23.

**G. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF OR TO APOLOGIZE FOR OPPOSING AND EXPOSING HOMOSEXUALITY AS SINFUL, AS AN ABOMINATION IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, WITH THOSE GUILTY BEING IN DANGER OF SUFFERING THE VENGEANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE, Lev.18:22; 20:13; Rom.1:26,27; 1Cor.6:9,10; 1Tim.1:9,10; Jude 7.**

**H. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF OR TO APOLOGIZE FOR IDENTIFYING AND OPPOSING COHABITATION WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF SCRIPTURAL MARRIAGE AS SINFUL.**

1. Such cohabitation of a male and a female is sinful because God who ordained sexual cohabitation between male and female limited it to the scriptural marriage relationship, Gen.2:18-24; Heb.13:4; 1Cor.7:2-5; Rev.21:8; 1Cor.6:9,10,18.

**I. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED FOR OR TO APOLOGIZE FOR PLAINNESS OF SPEECH IN PREACHING THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND EXPOSING SIN AND ERROR BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE CHURCH, Gal.1:6-10; 4:16; 2:11-14; Ac.4:13,31; Ac.13:6-12.**

**J. THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ASHAMED OF OR TO APOLOGIZE FOR CLAIMING TO BE DIFFERENT OR BEING THE LORD’S PECULIAR PEOPLE IN THE TRUE BIBLICAL SENSE OF THE TERM, 1Pet.2:5-9; Cf. Exo.19:5; Deut.14:2; 26:18; Psa.135:4; Tit.2:11-14**