

"The person who keeps every law of God but makes one little slip is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is." James 2:10 (LB)

Good News About Grace - part 2 GUILT-FREE GRACE

I. What Is Guilt

"My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear." Ps. 38:4 (NIV)

Guilt is a warning light

There are two kinds of guilt:

* good guilt

* false guilt

"You began your life in Christ by the Spirit. Now are you trying to make it complete by your own power? That is foolish." Gal. 3:3 (NCV)

How do I tell the difference?

Good guilt has a genuine Biblical base

Is the focus on . . .

- ◆ People or God?
- ◆ Vague or Specific?
- ◆ Rules or Relationships?

II. Our Ways Of Handling Guilt

"...they sewed fig leaves together and made something to cover themselves...they hid from the Lord God...'I was afraid because I was naked'...'she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate.'" Gen. 3:7-12 (NCV)

Shame

Hide

Blame

III. God's Way Of Handling Guilt -- GRACE

"For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ." John 1:17

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 (NCV)

1. Confess our sins

⇒ Tell God

"God, you know what I have done wrong; I cannot hide my guilt from you." Ps. 69:5 (NCV)

⇒ Tell a trusted friend

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so God can heal you." James 5:16 (NCV)

2. Trust God's character

"He is faithful and just."

3. Accept God's forgiveness

"People who believe in God's Son are not judged guilty." John 3:18 (NCV)

"I finally admitted all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, 'I will confess them to the Lord.' And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone." Ps. 32:5 (LB)