

Not Ashamed

Intro: We have heard the song, "Proud to be an American" a great deal over the past few years. This is right and good, for we should feel pride in our country. But spiritual matters are of far greater concern. We should be proud of things spiritual. Sadly, far too many Christians are ashamed of spiritual things. Let us notice some things of which we should not be ashamed.

I. OF CHRIST.

A. We must not be ashamed of Christ.

1. Mark 8:38 ³⁸ Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."
2. Luke 9:26 ²⁶ For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and *in his* Father's, and of the holy angels."

B. We must believe on Him.

1. Rom. 9:33 ³³ As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."
2. Rom. 10:11 ¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

C. This includes:

1. Who He is; God manifested in the flesh.
 - a. John 1:1 ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
 - b. Mat. 1:23 ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."
 - c. 1 Tim. 3:16 ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."
2. His virgin birth.
 - a. Isa. 7:14 ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
 - b. Mat. 1:18-21 ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. ²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
3. His life.
 - a. His humility; Phi. 2:8 ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."
 - b. His meekness; Mat. 11:28-30 ²⁸ Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light."
 - c. His love; Gal. 2:20 ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
 - d. His severity; Mat. 23.

4. His death.
 - a. The demonstration of God's love.
 - (1) John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
 - (2) 1 John 4:9 ⁹ In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."
 - b. Its vicarious nature.
 - (1) 2 Cor. 5:21 ²¹ For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."
 - (2) 1 Pet. 3:18 ¹⁸ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit:"
 - c. The purpose of it (for our sins).
 - (1) 1 Pet. 3:18 ¹⁸ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit:"
 - (2) Heb. 9:22 ²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."
 5. His example.
 - a. John 13:15 ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."
 - b. 1 Pet. 2:21 ²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"
- D. We must not be ashamed of confessing Him; Mat. 10:32-33** ³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

II. OF THE GOSPEL.

A. We must not be ashamed of the words of Christ.

1. Mark 8:38 ³⁸ Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."
2. 2 Tim. 1:8 ⁸ Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;"

B. That it is God's Word.

1. 1 The. 2:13 ¹³ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."
2. Gal. 1:11-12 ¹¹ But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. ¹² For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."
3. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 ¹⁶ All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

C. That it is God's power to save.

1. Jas. 1:21 ²¹ Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."
2. Rom. 1:16 ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

3. It seems like the Lord's church no longer believes this.
 - a. They preach and want preached anything other than God's Word; short stories, philosophy, etc.
 - b. We now rely on entertainment, sports, etc. to draw men to Christ instead of God's Word
 - (1) John 6:44-45 ⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."
 - (2) The appeal is not to be anything other than God's Word.
 - c. 2 Tim. 4:2 ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

D. That it will judge us in the last day.

1. John 12:48 ⁴⁸ He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."
2. Rev. 20:12 ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."
3. Rom. 2:16 ¹⁶ In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."

III. OF THE CHURCH.

A. Why we should not be ashamed.

1. It is the beautiful bride of Christ.
 - a. 2 Cor. 11:2 ² For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ."
 - b. Rev. 19:7-9 ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. ⁹ And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."
2. It is the fulness of Christ; Eph. 1:22-23 ²² And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, ²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."
3. Its purchase price, thus its value.
 - a. Acts 20:28 ²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
 - b. Eph. 5:25-27 ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."
 - c. Thus, that its owner is Jesus Christ and the church belongs to him.

B. Of its uniqueness.

1. There is only one church.
 - a. Christ, who taught against polygamy, would not and does not have more than one bride.

- b. A physical head has only one body, so the spiritual head (Christ) has but one body (the church).
 - (1) Col. 1:18 ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.”
 - (2) Eph. 1:22-23 ²² And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, ²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
 - (3) Eph. 4:4 ⁴⁴ *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”
- 2. All the saved are members of that one church.
 - a. Acts 2:41, 47 ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.... ⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
 - b. Eph. 5:23 ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”
- 3. That that one church belongs to Christ and is called by His name.
 - a. The individual Christians.
 - (1) Acts 11:26 ²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”
 - (2) Not called Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, etc.
 - b. The church as a whole.
 - (1) Rom. 16:16 ¹⁶ Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.”
 - (2) Not called by denominational names.

IV. OF BEING A CHRISTIAN.

A. Of becoming a Christian.

- 1. That we became one.
 - a. Those becoming Christians rejoiced, they were pleased at their salvation.
 - (1) Acts 2:41 ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.”
 - (2) Acts 8:39 ³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”
 - (3) Acts 16:34 ³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”
 - b. Acts 24:25 ²⁵ And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”
 - c. Acts 26:28 ²⁸ Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”
- 2. How we became a Christian.
 - a. Faith
 - (1) Heb. 11:6 ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
 - (2) John 14:1 ¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”
 - b. Repentance
 - (1) Luke 13:3 ³ I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
 - (2) Acts 17:30 ³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”

c. Confession

- (1) Mat. 10:32-33 ³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. ³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”
- (2) Rom. 10:10 ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

d. Baptism

- (1) Mark 16:16 ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
- (2) Acts 2:38 ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

e. Are we proud enough to tell others how to become a Christian?

B. Living The Christian life.

1. Having the proper attitudes.

- a. Phi. 2:5 ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”
- b. Setting our affections on spiritual things.
 - (1) Mat. 22:37 ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”
 - (2) Col. 3:1-2 ¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”
- c. This will include being humble, gentle, kind, loving, merciful and forgiving, meek, etc.

2. Having the proper actions.

- a. Tit. 2:12 ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
- b. Denying
 - (1) Eph. 4:17-22 ¹⁷ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: ¹⁹ Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But ye have not so learned Christ; ²¹ If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;”
 - (2) Col. 3:5-9 ⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶ For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷ In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. ⁸ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;”
 - (3) 1 Pet. 4:3-4 ³ For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: ⁴ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*.”
- c. Living
 - (1) Gal. 5:22-24 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

- (2) 2 Pet. 1:5-7 ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

C. Of Suffering as a Christian.

1. 1 Pet. 4:16 ¹⁶ Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”
2. Those living the Christian life will suffer persecution.
 - a. 2 Tim. 3:12 ¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
 - b. John 15:20 ²⁰ Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”
3. Our response to suffering.
 - a. Rejoice because we are blessed by it.
 - (1) Mat. 5:10-12 ¹⁰ Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ¹² Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”
 - (2) 1 Pet. 1:6 ⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:”
 - (3) 1 Pet. 3:14 ¹⁴ But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;”
 - (4) 1 Pet. 4:13 ¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”
 - b. Unashamed
 - (1) 2 Tim. 1:12 ¹² For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”
 - (2) 1 Pet. 4:16 ¹⁶ Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”
 - c. Take it patiently
 - (1) Jas. 5:10-11 ¹⁰ Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. ¹¹ Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”
 - (2) 1 Pet. 2:20 ²⁰ For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God.”

D. Of Dying as a Christian.

1. Phi. 1:20-21, 23 ²⁰ According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death. ²¹ For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. ²³ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:”
2. Psa. 116:15 ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord *is* the death of his saints.”
3. Rev. 14:13 ¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

4. Balaam desire was to die that death, he did not live so that he could; Num. 23:10 ¹⁰ Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth *part* of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!”

Conclusion: We should never allow the world to shame us regarding Christianity. It stands on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and His Word. Let us live as He directs so that our death will be precious in God’s sight.