

**“Out of Hiding”**  
February 15, 2015

**John 3:16-21**

**CORE:** Jesus said there are two ways to live—in the LIGHT or in the DARKNESS. In the DARKNESS—we hide, we grow accustomed to lies, and we learn to cope by living in denial.

In the LIGHT—we embrace truth, we live loved, we experience freedom, and we enjoy openness. We **“COME OUT OF HIDING”!**

**A determining factor in how we live involves:**

**1. KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GUILT & SHAME**

- **GUILT IS GOOD**
  - Includes clear conviction, truth, and honesty
  - Addresses the issues—in order to rescue and restore
  - Goal: to redeem what was lost
  - To move us from deadly independence to healthy dependence
- **SHAME IS BAD**
  - Condemnation (opposite of *clear conviction*); vague, offers no solutions
  - Goal: make you “feel bad”—and keep you there (i.e., captive)!
  - Leaves you feeling despised, helpless, and hopeless.
- **GUILT DRAWS YOU INTO THE LIGHT**—to meet the One in whom “there is no darkness” (SEE 1 John 1:5-7)
- **SHAME DRIVES YOU INTO HIDING**—hoping that no one (including God) will see you as you are!

**2. GOD HAS ALWAYS MOVED TOWARD US—TO BREAK SHAME OFF US**

**NOTE:** God’s voice in the Garden was HIS LOVE ON THE MOVE. Not to increase shame (i.e., “*Shame on you!*”)—but to bring truth and set free (i.e., “*Conviction to you!*”)!

- **“Where are you?”**
  - Look & see where you are!
  - You are in SHAME...I didn’t create you to live there
  - Come out of hiding. Admit you “blew it”!
- **“Who told you that (*you are naked & ashamed*)?”**
  - What voice have you been listening to?
  - Hear My voice. I’m giving you a choice—to come clean.

### 3. THEY CHOSE TO HIDE. THEY CHOSE DENIAL.

NOTE: 1<sup>st</sup> concern: hiding their shame from one another (*fig leaves*). 2<sup>nd</sup> concern: hiding their shame from God (*trees*).

Mark Twain- "*Denial ain't just a river in Egypt.*"

DENIAL is a choice—to hide our “true self” because the truth is too painful to accept. Denial is “projecting perfection”—fear of being known & vulnerable.

DENIAL is born out of FEAR (1st recorded words of man: “*I was afraid—so I hid*” Genesis 3:10)

- It's why Peter denied that he would ever deny Jesus (Matt. 26:33- "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.")
  - Peter was afraid his friends would—see his weakness, think less of him...love him less
  - NOTE: as long as we look to other people as our exclusive source of love & approval—we will spend our lives HIDING
- It's why Aaron blamed “These evil people” and “That fire” for the “golden calf” (Exodus 32)

### 4. WE LIE—because we BELIEVE “THE LIE”

“THE LIE”- “*You shall be AS God*”—therefore you must be “PERFECT” and IN CHARGE and IN CONTROL.

- Children in “perfectionist” homes lie to “save face” (*even about insignificant things*)—it becomes a “way of life”—a way of survival.
- Christians aren't allowed to admit: “*I'm hurting*” or “*I'm struggling.*”
- Why offended people say to someone's apology: “No problem. It didn't bother me” (When it DID. Kept you up at night, unable to get over it!)
- Yet, I've found great comfort in declaring: “I'm a new creation in Jesus—in the process of being healed & restored!” (*i.e., “Tough morning. Struggling a bit. Can you pray for me?”*)

### 5. REPENTANCE—ALL OF THIS CAN CHANGE!

REPENTANCE is not simply coming with a list of your “wrongs”. It's admitting: “I'm in the WRONG SYSTEM!” I believed “The Lie”—I'm trying to be LIKE God without GOD!

**MAJOR “U-TURN”—coming out of hiding! Experiencing what Jesus said: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)**

**CLSOING THOUGHT-**

**There is a voice calling our name—the voice of the Holy Spirit.**

**It’s not the voice of SHAME...it’s the voice of CONVICTION.**

**Jesus said (about the Holy Spirit): “When he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin.” (John 16:8). At the heart of His conviction, He calls us to “believe Him” (John 16:9).**

**He convicts us to believe this:**

**What we were powerless to do (i.e., break the power of sin and shame)—“GOD DID by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so HE CONDMENED SIN in the flesh.” (Romans 8:3)**

- **Your sin has already been judged by the Father—in His Son on the Cross**
- **You can now come out of hiding—step into the light. “In His light we see light!” (Psalm 36:9) Honestly beholding the “Sun of righteousness” (without any “sun-block”), experiencing the “healing in His rays!” (Malachi 4:2)**