



Dear Crossroads Family,

John Ortberg wrote in an article in Leadership Journal:

Guilt is perhaps the modern world's most undervalued commodity. Our capacity for it is a hint of our meaning and destiny. We are able to knowingly create good—and evil. The ability to experience guilt is a sign of health. The only two kinds of people who experience no guilt are saints and psychopaths.

Feelings of guilt can be a good thing. Such feelings are intended by God to lead us to change our behavior and to seek God's forgiveness and peace for our souls. **1 John 1:9** is a beautiful verse. It says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

For the Christian, guilt feelings are a problem only if they are allowed to persist. They persist when we don't change our behavior causing the guilty feelings. They persist when we fail to confess our sins to God. They persist when we don't trust God to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

This Sunday's message will be the first in a series entitled "The Beauty of Forgiveness." The message entitled, "Branded and Guilty," will address the proper response to the guilt and guilt feelings that come from experiencing some significant moral or ethical failure. (Sermon notes are provided below.)

We've all experienced guilt feelings arising from being guilty. Let's allow God's word to coach us to respond effectively to this common human experience. I hope you will be in place this Sunday at Crossroads ready to worship and to allow God to speak to your heart.

As a special treat, we will hear from missionaries Jason and Nicole Zaruba in the service. They are SBC missionaries to South Africa (and the son and daughter-in-law of our own Keith and Trudy Zaruba).

I look forward to worshipping with you.

Love,
Bro. Doug

Branded and Guilty
Psalm 51:1-13

The Bible confronts us with the reality of where we stand on our own before God: _____ as sinners and _____. Psalm 51 is a model for us to follow, the one effective _____ to this fact.

The first and foundational response to the fact that we are branded as guilty is _____. David admitted his moral failure toward a _____, but that paled in comparison to the fact that his failure was a sin against a _____.

David knew his only hope was God's _____. Fortunately, our God is a God of unfailing love and great compassion. So, our next response to being branded as guilty is to _____ and _____ God's offer of mercy. David somehow understood the merciful, forgiving nature of our God. Maybe he remembered how God proclaimed His name to Moses in Exod. 34: "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and _____, slow to _____, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, _____ iniquity and transgression and sin..."—that somehow pardon was in God's _____, His very _____, so he asked for it and took it. In the same way, we are offered pardon for sin in Jesus Christ. All that is left for us to have it is to _____ for it and _____ it.

Finally, in response to being branded and guilty, we invite God's transforming power to "create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me." For the power of indwelling sin to be _____, something has to change _____. The word translated "create" is only used of God in the Bible. Only the One who had the power to _____ has the power to _____, to create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us.

Psalm 51 teaches us that, though guilt is _____ in the Christian message, it is not _____. In Christ, guilt is _____ from the guilty to the innocent, permanently _____, and the guilty one is _____ in the image of the Creator.

A Few Announcements:

Don't Forget! Blake & Jenna Bolerjack Concert is Sunday, October 18. Join us at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary for a joyful concert experience. Blake & Jenna share a message of hope that, even in the darkest times, God never leaves you. The concert is free, but a Love Offering will be collected to help them continue to serve full-time through their music.

Sign-ups Sheets for Trunk-or-Treat participants and other volunteer needs for Harvest Fest will be in the foyer. Many volunteers are needed to make this community outreach a success!

Dr. Doug Diehl
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