

Real Life

The Rabbit sighed. He thought it would be a long time before this magic called Real happened to him. He longed to become Real, to know what it felt like; and yet the idea of growing shabby and losing his eyes and whiskers was rather sad. He wished that he could become it without these uncomfortable things happening to him. *The Velveteen Rabbit, by Margery Williams*

Troubling Truth: If we don't know how to let God and others love us, then shame will define us. If shame defines us, betrayal will describe us....

Fig Leaf Failure

Immediately the two of them did "see what's really going on"—saw themselves naked! They sewed fig leaves together as makeshift clothes for themselves. Genesis 3:7 The Message

- Sin produces an awareness of shame, shame always preaches the message “HIDE”.
- Adam and Eve dealt with the effect – covering secret shame because they had no means to deal with the heart.
- But here's the problem. Sin can't be managed.
- When we hide anything about ourselves, what we are showing is unresolved shame.
- It is easier to talk about the fig leaf and the nasty fruit tasting incident than it is to acknowledge unresolved shame.

Shame Lies

- Something is uniquely broken in me that cannot be fixed.
- Because I sin something is wrong with me.
- An act of sin creates an awareness of shame.
- The human condition is this: we have absolutely no way to cope with sin. There is no coping mechanism for sin. We cannot handle sin – in body, mind, emotion or spirit. Sin fuels our sin nature.
- THE ONLY CURE FOR SHAME – WHICH IS THE ISSUE – IS THE GRACE OF GOD.
- Unresolved shame creates the need to hide and isolate, robs us of our dignity and ability to be honest with ourselves about our shame



The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:6-8 NIV