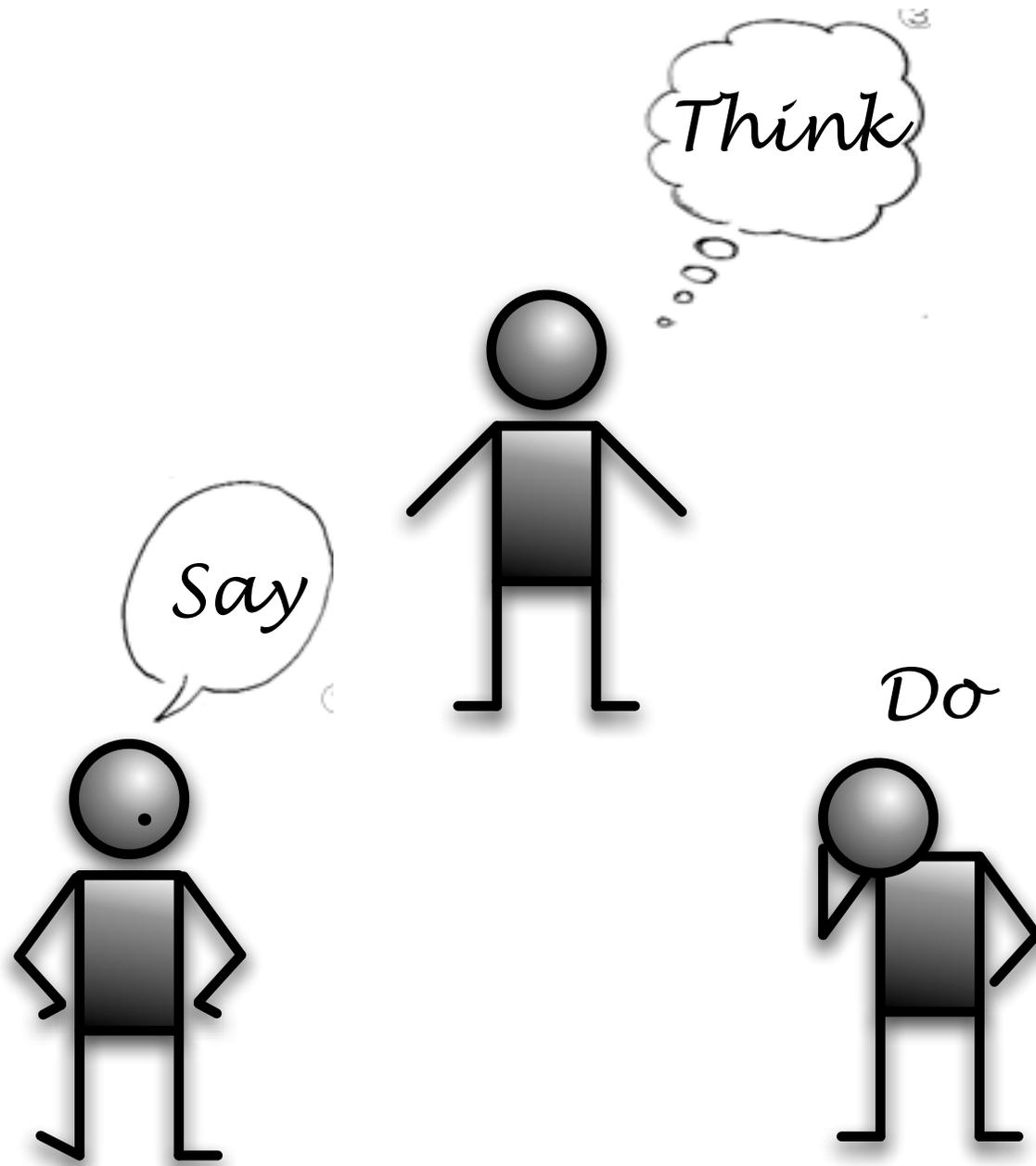


BATS 28

Guilt



Guilt

- guilty - culpable of or responsible for a specified wrongdoing : *the police will soon discover who the guilty party is | he was found **guilty of manslaughter***
- conscious of or affected by a feeling of guilt : *John felt guilty at having deceived the family*
- involving a feeling or a judgment of guilt : *I have no guilty secret to reveal.*

Guilt

- guilt - the fact of having committed a specified or implied offense or crime : *it is the duty of the prosecution to prove the prisoner's guilt.* •
- a feeling of having done wrong or failed in an obligation : *he remembered with sudden guilt the letter from his mother that he had not yet read.*

Guilt

- “Freud, who had so much to say about guilt, actually used 2 German words to talk about it; one that means, "a guilt feeling"; and a second word meaning, "consciousness of guilt"; dividing guilt into two aspects, first, "feeling guilty", and second "thoughts of guilt".
- There are, therefore, two sides to guilt, one good and one bad.
- Sometimes when you feel guilty it is exactly the right thing, however, on the other hand, other times when you feel guilty it is exactly the wrong way to feel.

Guilt

- "Only a hundred years ago, Mark Twain could write, "Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to."
- *What's so Bad about Guilt?* By Harlan J. Wechsler, Ph.D.

Guilt

- Dr. Laurel Richardson, in her book, *The New Other Woman*, finds that an affair with a married man is no longer deemed to be so terrible. Over 40% of married men report having affairs, and, for men with incomes over \$70,000 per year the figure is 70%! These figures are shocking enough in themselves, but the most shocking is the attitudes that she finds goes with these affairs.

Guilt

- The, "other woman", did not regard affairs with another woman's husband as a, "sland, grievance, or breach of sisterhood."
- They tended to think of the marriage as temporary, in light of today's divorce rate, and of the wife as really nonexistent.
- Dr. Richardson writes, "if his wife does not exist, she cannot have feelings, if she does not have feelings, she cannot be hurt; and if she cannot be hurt, there is no reason to feel guilty."

Guilt

- Guilt has been trivialized in the modern day, when people do not really feel guilty over some unethical or sinful behavior, but over such things as food.
- More people feel guilty today about what they eat than about what they say or what they do to other people.

Guilt

- And, guilt has no place in modern psychology, being nothing but a troublesome way of thinking that keeps us from being always happy.
- Psychology has defined guilt is the reason we are depressed and condemn ourselves not as the feeling and knowledge that we have done some wrong.

Guilt

- Modern Christendom has taken 2 inappropriate approaches towards guilt; the first to send it away along with modern psychology, as a hindrance to your happiness, and secondly, to use it as a stick to hit people over the head to keep them in line with their legalistic injunctions.
- The former approach forgets that we are to live in response to God, the latter approach forgets that we are not to be God for other people.

Guilt

- Modern man has set up a system of false guilt. Guilt over things that really are not sinful, but might not be wise lifestyles; such as the aforementioned eating habits, and exercise.
- Guilt over eating excessively or improperly and guilt over the failure to exercise far outweighs the people's sense of guilt over what they have done that is contrary to God's law.

Guilt

- In a recent philosophical study entitled *Pride, Shame and Guilt*, Gabrielle Taylor speaks of guilt as one of the "emotions of self-assessment".
- Dr. Willard Gaylin, in a study about feelings published several years ago, says that guilt encompasses feelings that range from self disappointment and anguish to the sense of being contaminated, marked, and soiled.

Guilt

- Guilt, like pain, has a purpose, a function within the human being as part of a feedback mechanism that indicates a problem with our well-being.
- Pain indicates a problem with our physical well-being, while guilt points to problems of our spiritual well-being.
- Because guilt makes us feel bad about ourselves, it is common today to take pills to try to eliminate that feeling of guilt.

Guilt

- This merely dries the guilt deeper causing more frustration and anxiety resulting in more serious emotional or mental states.
- Guilt is a sign of something wrong that must be corrected.

Guilt

- Guilt, though, is not only a collection of emotional aches and pains, but pangs of conscience, anxiety mixed with troubling thoughts when we are alone with ourselves.
- It is this guilty conscience that will carry guilt from beyond the feeling into the realm of thinking, resulting in a pain in our minds.

Guilt

- While guilt has an emotional aspect, it is more than just emotion.
- Compare it to depression to see that this is true.
- When you are depressed you may not have any idea as to why you feel the way you do, but with guilt, you always know why you feel that way.
- You feel bad because of something you have thought, you have said, or you have done.

Guilt

- Guilt is the only feeling that demands that questions be answered; we may feel angry, for example, and there is no demand to answer the question why.
- But guilt always demands that we examine ourselves and determine what it is that has produced this guilty feeling or this guilty conscience.

Guilt

- Guilt relates to our conscience and our conscience relates to our consciousness. Animals do not have guilt.
- They may do something wrong and fear the consequences, but they do not have self-consciousness and cannot reflect on what they have done and feel guilty about it.

Guilt

- Only man has self-consciousness; animals are conscious, aware of themselves and their relationship to their environment, but they are not self-conscious-they do not sit back and think about themselves, what they have done, and the rules they have broken.
- They are not conscious of their relationship to God.

Guilt

- Self-consciousness, we learned from the second chapter of Genesis, comes from knowledge, specifically the knowledge we gain from God concerning right and wrong. It is the self-consciousness that leads to a guilty conscience.

Guilt

- Without self-consciousness we could not reflect upon our deeds, our words, or thoughts, and come to the conclusion of "guilt".
- The book on *The Ways of the Righteous*, written in the 14th century, says that embarrassment and intelligence go hand-in-hand.

Guilt

- For man was different from the rest of creation. The beautiful animals, the soaring birds, the culture as, the whales, they were all exquisite creations", yet none would have self-consciousness. And because none would have self-consciousness, none could be embarrassed. "And without self-consciousness none could ever hope to make a moral decision. Only man.

Guilt

- Adherence to conscience is missing today; from the murderers who have no remorse, to the businessmen who lie, cheat and steal.
- They all have a conscience, but today's society has taught them that guilt and conscience are for the weak.

Guilt

- Guilt, if not dealt with scripturally will almost always result in Blame.
- Blaming others, either for our misdeed that caused the guilt; or blaming others for their sins as a means of justifying our misdeed, and thereby deflecting our own guilt.

Guilt

- Guilt is the first step in the process of properly handling a sin.
- God produces guilt, in this case known as conviction, to stimulate us to confession and the resultant restoration of Spirituality.
- This is seen in Genesis, when, immediately after eating the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve were “ashamed”.
- Instead of standing at the place where God entered the Garden each day, to face Him and confess their transgression, they hid themselves.

Guilt

- God, upon entering the Garden after the Fall of Adam and Eve, says, “Adam, where are you”; and Adam replies, “We were naked and afraid, so we hid ourselves.”
- Here, upon the realization of having committed a transgression (“naked”) against a Standard (God Coming), are the approaches that Guilt takes to handle it from a HAM perspective, as opposed to God’s perspective:
 - 1. Fear
 - 2. Avoidance

Guilt

- So, we see that Guilt is:
- The revealing of a transgression - Nakedness,
- The awareness of a Standard (God's Voice).
- The immediate emotion:
 - Fear
- The inappropriate response:
 - Avoidance
- And then the excusing of the behavior - "The Woman you gave me...The serpent made me forget..."

Guilt

- **GUILT**

- It is normal feel guilty when we commit sin.
- It is a feeling that is sometimes experienced the moment we recognize that we have committed, or think we have committed a sin.
- There is nothing wrong with guilt as a response of conscience or conviction by the Holy Spirit.

Guilt

- The problem is when guilt continues because
- 1) We have not Recovered via 1 John 1:9; or
- 2) We Recovered but still feel guilty as if we were not really forgiven (Phil. 3:13-14).
- Guilt is a HAT which brings out a sense of inadequacy.

Guilt

- This is dangerous, because it leads to arrogant pre-occupation with the correctness of one's behavior from self-righteous arrogance.
- Millions of Believers lead miserable, unhappy lives because they constantly feel guilty about one thing or another.
- The problem is that they do not recognize it as a sin and do not know how to deal with it because they lack knowledge of Bible doctrine.

Guilt

- Guilt and manipulation:
- Guilt is probably the number one device used by people to manipulate others.
- Some have become experts in the use of guilt as a tool to manipulate.

Guilt

- Three ways guilt can manipulate the life of any believer:
- Manipulation of self; this is sometimes called a guilt trip.
- Subjective manipulation; is when a person is manipulated by someone else.
- Crusader, legalistic manipulation; becoming a manipulator of others yourself.

Guilt

- Experiences involving guilt or shame are likely to be repressed which forms garbage in the subconscious.
- This garbage has a tremendous effect upon the decisions that are made in interaction with people.
- Repression is how we accumulate garbage in the subconscious, and guilt is a part of that garbage that can do major damage.

Guilt

- Often, people project their own sins onto others in order to leave themselves guiltless or even victimized.
- If you can make the other person feel guilty in some problem then you feel less guilty.
- Guilt brings on a system of double discipline.
- You discipline yourself with guilt, and God adds to it with divine discipline.

Guilt

- **Confession** is the divine solution for the removal of guilt from the soul and for bringing the believer back into fellowship with God.
- Without Recovery through Confession as the protection of the soul, the believer becomes a slave to the emotional complex of sins, especially guilt.
- Guilt often becomes a motivator of life rather than doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness.
- False motivation from guilt supersedes true

Guilt

- Guilt causes the believer to be manipulated by legalism and controlled by self-righteous arrogance.
- Guilt causes people-emphasis over God-emphasis so that the weak control the strong.
- We enter into the most awful system of slavery when we are controlled by guilt.
- Guilt occurs when someone knocks the lid off the garbage can in our soul and then uses that guilt to manipulate us to suit themselves.

Guilt

- Believers must be on guard not to allow guilt to penetrate their souls when the gospel they share is rejected, or when they stand firm for the truth of God's Word and people totally ignore it or become antagonistic.
- We must remember that we are not responsible for the negative volition and indifference of others.

Guilt

- No one is perfect, and we all sin and fall short of the glory of God.
- Guilt is an arrogant preoccupation with self which ignores the fallibility and depravity of all men.
- It often stems from a sense of superiority over others in belief that one will not falter as others do.

And, Now... Prayer Time

