

CURT THOMPSON, MD

AUTHOR OF ANATOMY OF THE SOUL

THE

SOUL

OF

SHAME



RETELLING THE STORIES WE BELIEVE ABOUT OURSELVES

We recognize early and often that shame tends to be self-reinforcing. When we experience shame, we tend to turn away from others because the prospect of being seen or known by another carries the anticipation of shame being intensified or reactivated.

However, the very act of turning away, while temporarily protecting and relieving us from our feeling (and the gaze of the "other"), ironically simultaneously reinforces the very shame we are attempting to avoid. Notably, we do not necessarily realize this to be happening-we're just trying to survive the moment.

- Curt Thompson, M.D.

Deception

Deception

Shame Response: Cover, Hide, Blame

Deception

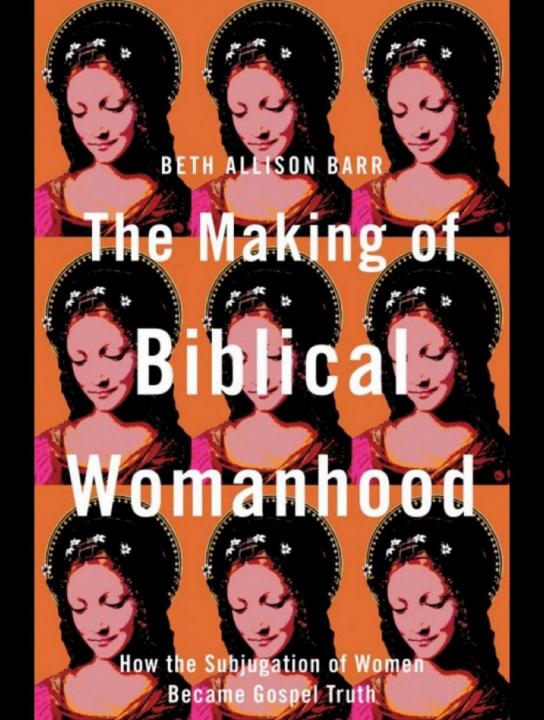
Shame Response: Cover, Hide, Blame

Consequence

"It is in Genesis 3:16 (God speaking to the woman) where we first see hierarchy in human relationships. ... Hierarchy was not God's will for the first pair, but it was imposed when they chose to disregard his command and eat the forbidden fruit.... Adam would now be subject to his source (the ground), even as Eve was now subject ta ber source (Adam).

This was the moment of the birth of patriarchy. As a result of their sin, the man was now the master over the woman, and the ground was now master over the man, contrary to God's original intention in creation."

- Dr. Alice Matthews



Shame calls us to cover, hide, and blame - resulting in exile.

The Gospel calls us to come out of hiding, confess, and come home knowing that we are both

fully known in our brokenness,

yet fully loved by God.

"shame positions itself in such a way so as to keep borders tightly closed and vulnerability at a minimum. It teaches us not to reveal weakness, fearing that to do so will lead to our being shamed - the very antithesis of what we need for human flourishing."

- Dr. Curt Thompson

This second set of clothing was not the full clothing originally designed for them; it symbolically represented their future consummate inheritance as kings of the earth. This second set of clothing thus symbolized a permanent inheritance that they would receive at some consummative point in the future, which would entail a greater, glorious royal investiture of clothing when they would completely fulfill the mandate to rule as kings over the earth.

- Dr. G.K. Beale