

Honor and Shame

Helpful Resources



honorandshame.com



What is the Goal?

Colossians 1:28-29 - Everyone mature in Christ

John 15:8 - abiding in the vine, producing fruit

John 15:16 - Fruit that will last

We are talking about finishing the race

We must be learners

Proverbs 18:13 If one gives an answer
before he hears, it is his folly and shame





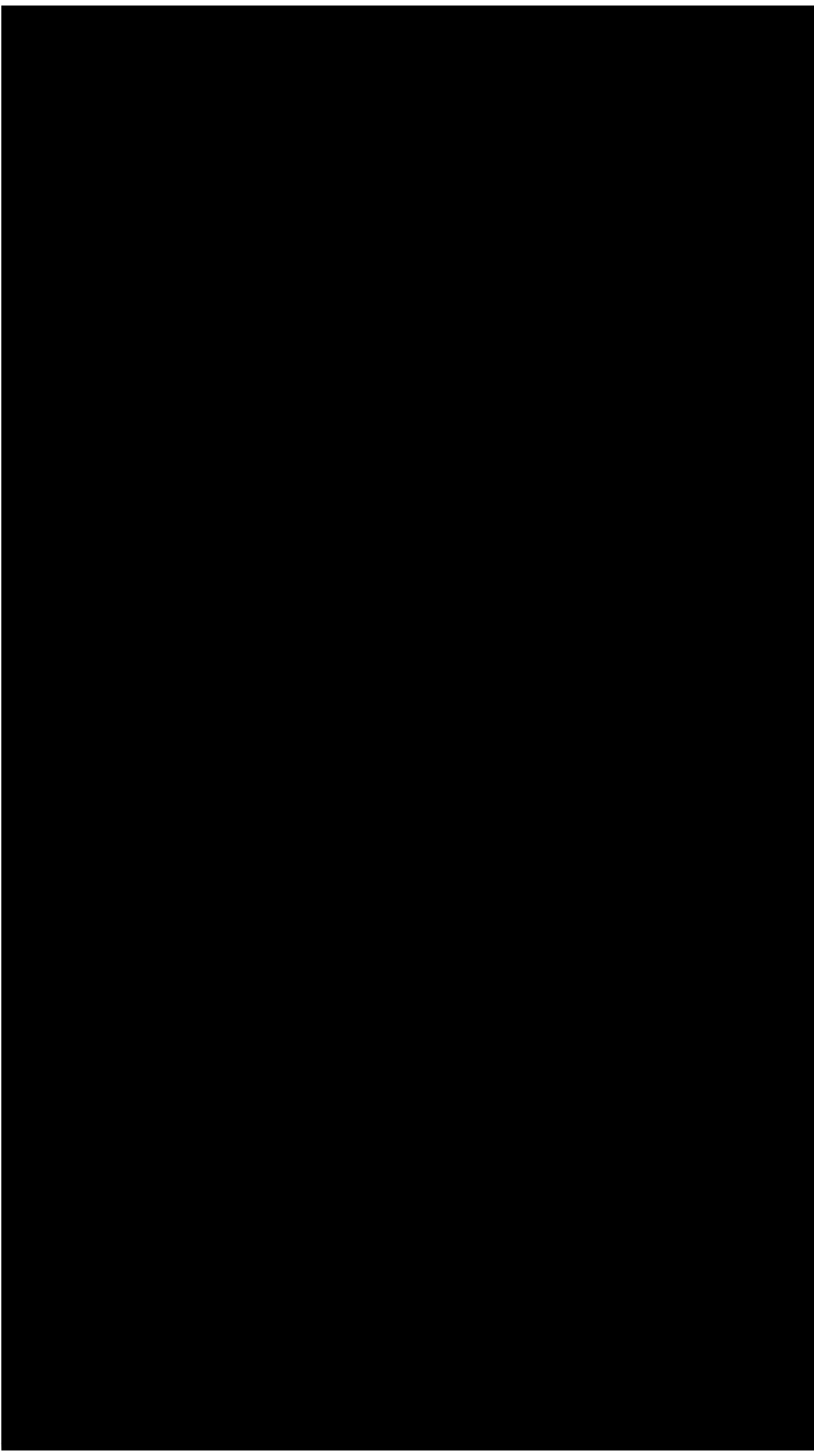
We must be learners

Proverbs 14:15 The simple believes
everything, but the prudent gives thought to
his steps

We must be learners

Proverbs 13:16 Every prudent man acts
with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly








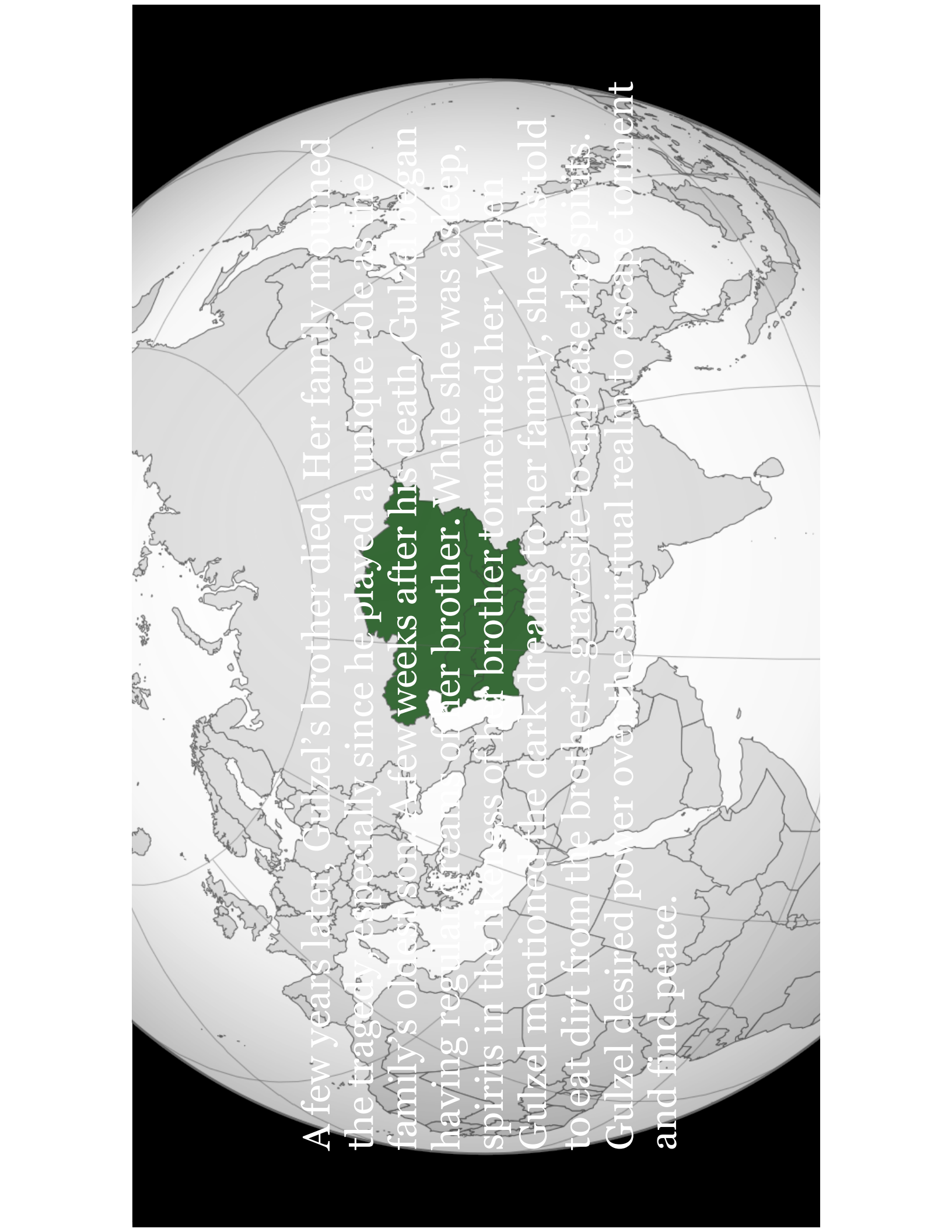




Gulzel trusted in Jesus as a university student. The message through which she accepted Christ was fairly standard. Your transgressions separate you from God; therefore you deserve punishment. Jesus died for your sin. Believe in him, and your sins will be forgiven. Her faith was genuine and real. Her sins were forgiven and she enjoyed new life in Christ. But as a Central Asian, Gulzel faced unique situations that forgiveness could not fully address.



One Sunday evening, Gulzel was returning to the city from her mom's house in the village. The taxi she entered had a male driver and three male passengers. After a short while the men began inviting Gulzel to their homes for tea and propositioning her. As a young girl she felt uncomfortable and tried to downplay the situation. Halfway through the ride, the men stopped for a round of vodka shots along the road. Being intoxicated, the men became physically aggressive. At just that moment, Gulzel noticed her uncle in an oncoming car, heading in her direction. But instead of jumping into the road and flagging her uncle down, Gulzel hid. She did not want her uncle to see her. Gulzel's primary concern in that moment was avoiding shame and maintaining family honor.



A few years later, Gulzel's brother died. Her family mourned the tragedy, especially since he played a unique role as the family's oldest son. A few weeks after his death, Gulzel began having regular dreams of her brother. While she was asleep, spirits in the likeness of her brother tormented her. When Gulzel mentioned the dark dreams to her family, she was told to eat dirt from the brother's gravesite to appease the spirits. Gulzel desired power over the spiritual realm to escape torment and find peace.



Though truly forgiven of her sins, Gutzel needed to experience God's salvation from shame and fear, as well as guilt. Gutzel was with most Christians in the majority world, requires a three-dimensional gospel of God's forgiveness, honor, and power.

Boston Marathon Bombing



“Soon, by Allah’s permission, a day will come when the Muslim will walk everywhere as a master, having honor, being revered, with his head raised high and his dignity preserved ... The time has come for those generations that were drowning in oceans of disgrace, being nursed on the milk of humiliation, and being ruled by the vilest of all people, after their long slumber in the darkness of neglect- the time has come for them to rise. The time has come for [the Muslim world] to wake up from its sleep, remove the garments of dishonor, and shake off the dust of humiliation and disgrace, for the era of lamenting and moaning has gone, and the dawn of honor has emerged anew.”

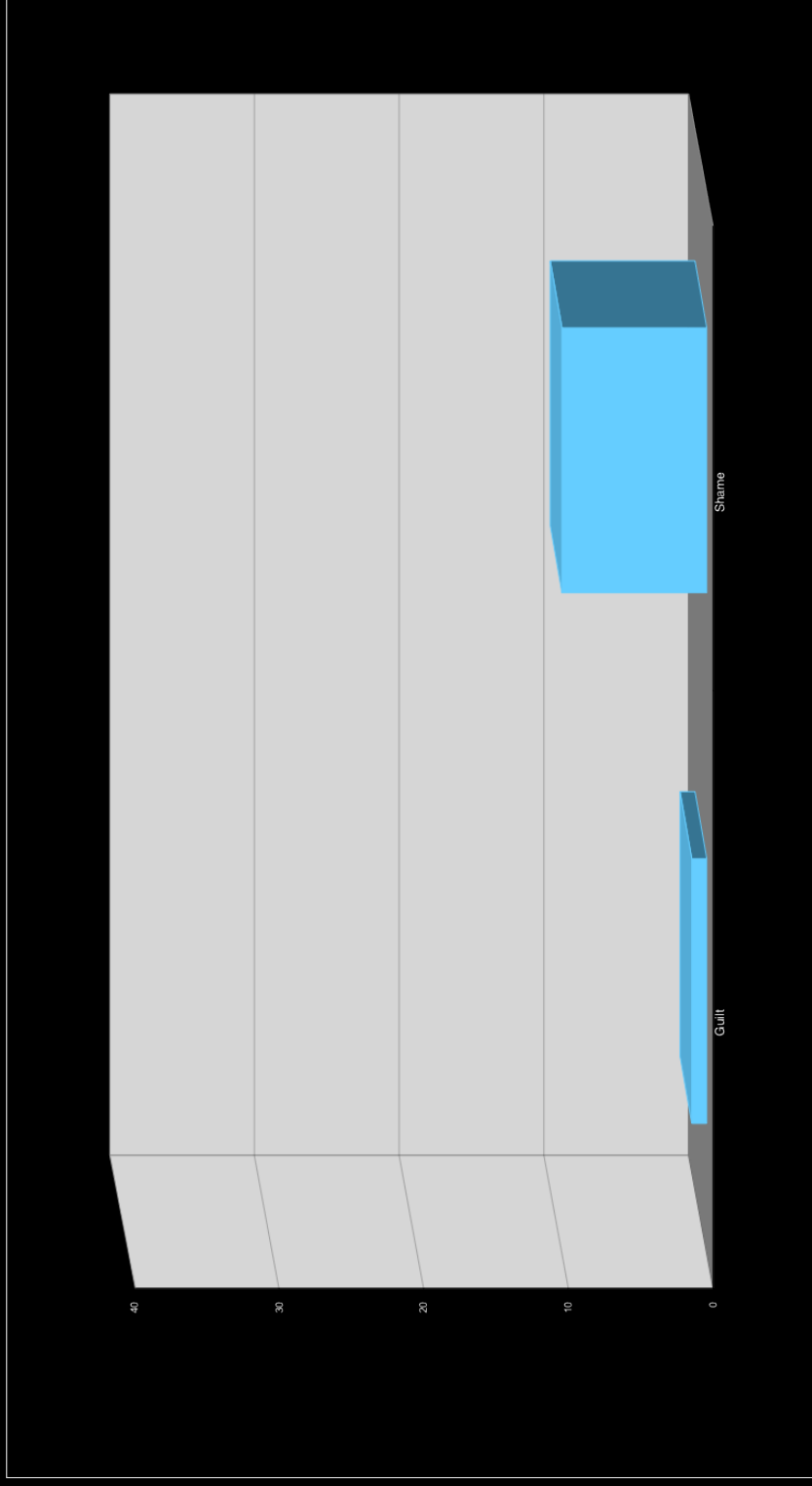
Psalm 44:13–15 (NKJV):

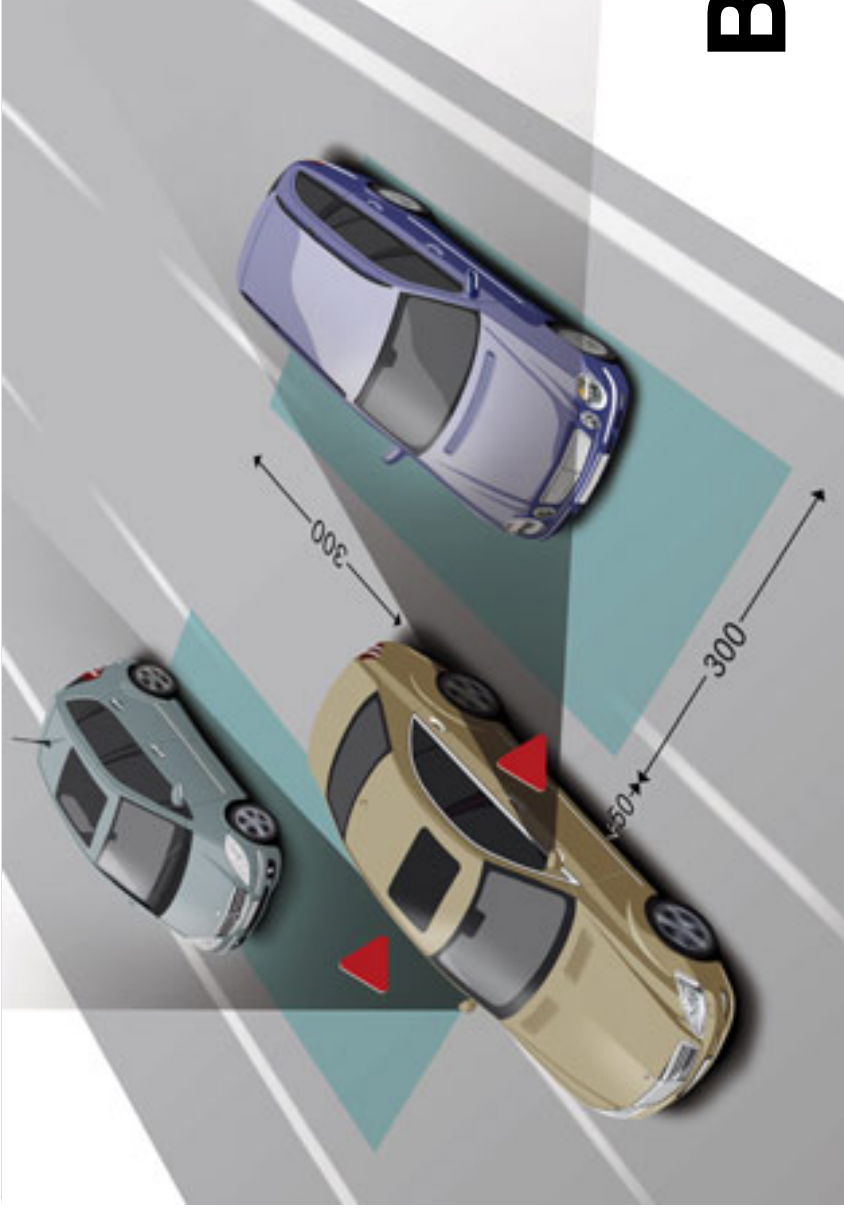
**You make us a reproach to our neighbors,
A scorn and a derision to those all around us.**

**You make us a byword among the nations,
A shaking of the head among the peoples.**

**My dishonor is continually before me,
And the shame of my face has covered me,**

Shame appears 10 times more than guilt in Scripture





Blind Spots

“Western theology has given the world a presentation of the gospel unwittingly influenced by its own Western values; in so doing, the culture of the Bible and the culture of the recipient peoples have often both been marginalized, resulting in unnecessary obstacles to faith in Christ

- Paul R. Gupta, Ph.D

“We in the West have much to learn about honor and shame, which the New Testament world (and Majority World today), lived with on a daily basis.”

- J.D. Payne, Ph.D.

“Shame has become the orphan of Western theology because of the huge cultural distance between our own world and the ancient world of the Near East... there are many places in the world to this day that are closer to biblical culture, where concepts of honor and shame are the **driving forces behind many traditions and inform the way in which relationships are pursued.**”
- Robin-Stockitt

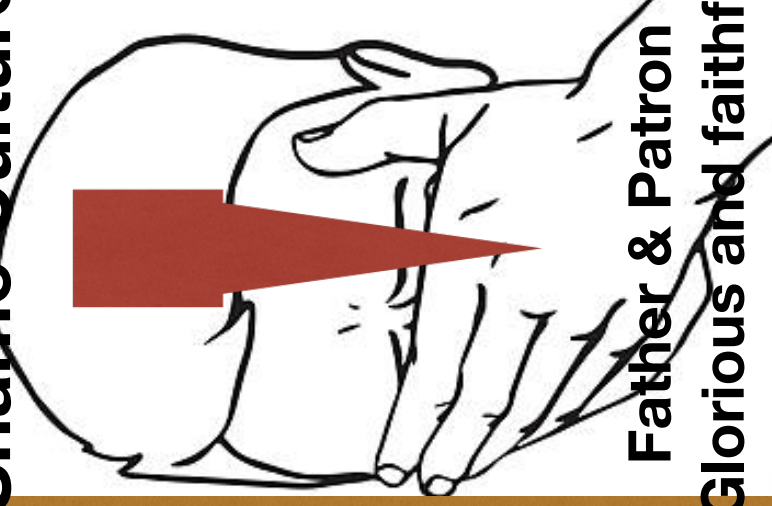
God's Attributes

Guilt Culture



Lawgiver & Judge
(Sinless and just)

Shame Culture



Father & Patron
(Glorious and faithful)

Guilt Culture



**He alone is
Morally pure**

God's Holiness

Shame Culture



**He alone is
Worthy of honor**

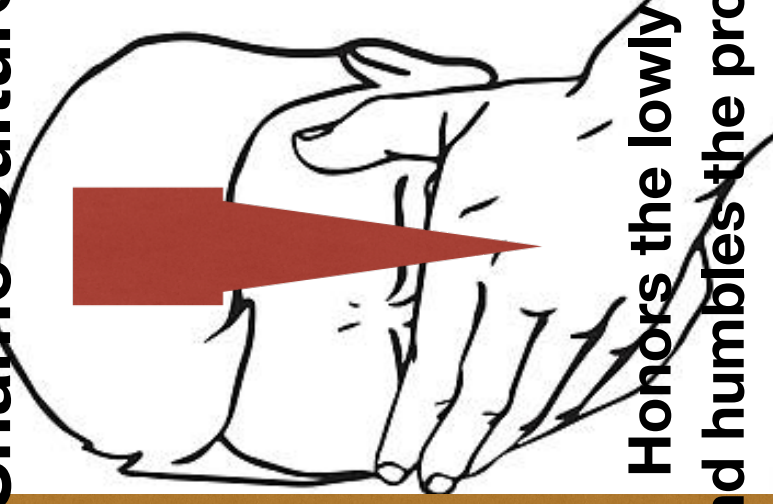
God's Power

Guilt Culture



Forgives transgressors

Shame Culture



**Honors the lowly
And humbles the proud**

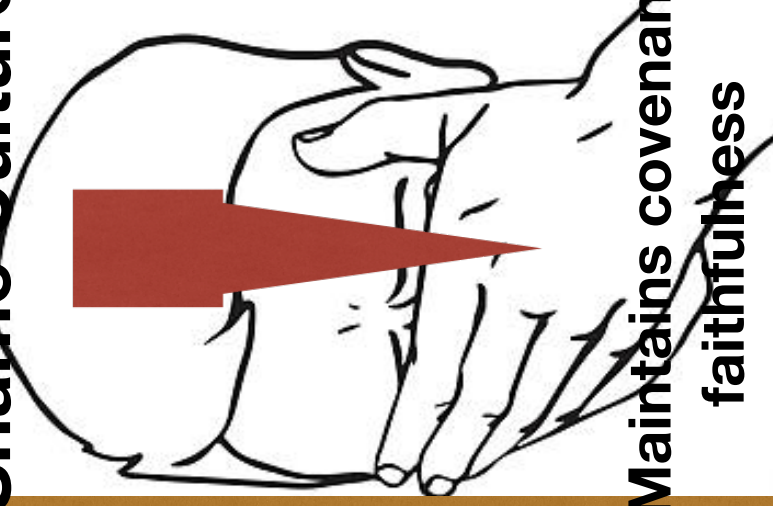
**God's
Righteousness**

Guilt Culture



Procures justice

Shame Culture



**Maintains covenant
faithfulness**

Jesus Christ

Guilt Culture



**Highlights priestly office:
His death satisfies divine
justice making our
forgiveness possible.**

Shame Culture



**Highlights sonship:
His shameful death
covers our shame, His
faithfulness to the Father
restores our honor with**

God