

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

February 21, 2016 – Covering Things Up

A calf was born yesterday and the cow tries to hide it. It's the cow's instinct, but it can be a dangerous thing – the calf loses the protection of the herd and the safety of the barn lot...

Our pastor read an article in Sports Illustrated that Herschel Walker did hand stand pushups every night. So one Saturday night, Pastor Steve w3as trying to do them, and it ended up with his foot going through the wall! He just moved a poster over to cover the hole and all was good for several weeks. Then he heard, "Steven Glen Bishop get in here!" He had forgotten what he had done!

Some things are much bigger...how guilt and shame entered the world.

At the end of the creation story,

Genesis 2:25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

They were fully exposed (physically and mental) before God and each other they felt no shame.

Humans only make it two chapters without messing this thing up. They were tempted by the devil and gave in to the temptation.

Genesis 3:7-10 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves tighter and made coverings for themselves.

Ways we try and cover up guilt and shame.

Don't think about it. There are places we don't go and people we avoid.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Where are we hiding from God?

9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

Skip to verse 21

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

God created a more permanent covering. An animal had to die in order for them to have clothes to cover their shame.

From the start of the Bible, God gave us the picture that something dies every time we sin, relationship between us and God and us and others.

1 John 1:8-9 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins,

The story of the prodigal son (picture God and us)

Luke 15:21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

The sooner we embrace our sinfulness, the sooner we experience forgiveness!

Back to 1John 1:9

He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Has there ever been a time when you admitted the fact that I am a sinner, and I’ve been covering things up?

The minute you admit you are a sinner in need of a savior – you have moved from the darkness to the light...shame to no shame, guilt to innocence.