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Daily Devotional, Tuesday, September 26, 2017 - What Is Guilt?

SEPTEMBER 26TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Romans 5:6-11

Guilt is something with which we're all familiar. Oftentimes, Christians wear it like a badge of honor, in some misguided effort to demonstrate humility. But this is a misunderstanding that poisons the church and steals the joy of Christ from believers. It's worth taking the time to stop and ask the question, "What is guilt?"

When we see the term in English translations of the Bible, we tend to apply a worldly interpretation of the passage. In the context of the world, guilt refers to feelings of remorse, depression, or rejection over some event from the past. Scripturally speaking, however, the word is used only to denote responsibility. The word is not associated with feelings of shame or rejection; instead, it is more of a legal term, as when a court finds an offender "guilty."

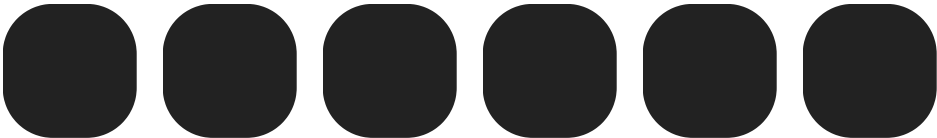
What does this mean for the believer? Well, we should already know that we have been found guilty—we all have an enormous sin debt that we could never pay. However, Jesus Christ took that guilt upon Himself at the cross, and He paid our debt in full. We need to realize that if He has already paid our debt and released us from liability, then we are no longer guilty. Yes, we have been tried, but we've been declared forgiven.

The Lord doesn't want us to hide the joy of our salvation beneath a smothering blanket of guilt. Rather, we are called to rejoice in the glorious redemption that Christ's sacrifice made possible. For this reason, we can proudly proclaim, "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). Go, and be free today.

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