“Ashamed”
Rom. 1:16; 6:21

Introduction:
A. Paul, in same book, says we both ought and ought not to be ashamed.
B. Church suffering today from both a lack of shame and too much shame.
   1. Causing us to be ineffective in reaching the lost in the world.
   2. Causing us to be indifferent toward many spiritual activities.
   3. Causing us to be ignorant of basic Bible truth and it application.
C. Let's notice two aspects of the subject of being ashamed:

Discussion:
I. There Are Times When We Ought To Be Ashamed, But Are Not (6:21).
A. This was ancient Judah's problem (Jer. 6:15; 8:12).
B. This is modern society's problem — both in and out of the church.
   1. Reflected by our appearance.
      a. Immodest apparel. (1 Tim. 2:9 KJV).
      c. Some hair styles. (1 Cor. 11:6,14)
   2. Reflected by all kinds of lasciviousness — words and gestures. (cf. Eph. 5:12).

II. There Are Times When We Ought Not Be Ashamed, But Are. (1:16)
A. Let us not be ashamed of the "gospel of Christ." (Rom. 1:15,16).
   1. The world has perverted the gospel of Christ. (Gal. 1:7).
      a. The gospel according to various denominations and TV evangelists.
      b. The “gospel of Christ” suggest these off-brands of gospel to many.
   2. The word of God still calls it “the gospel of Christ”.
      a. Not ashamed to represent it as the gospel of Christ. (1 Cor. 9:16-18).
      b. Not ashamed to represent it as power of God unto salvation from sin and hell.
         (1) Too often presented as answer to man temporal needs and aspirations.
         (2) Too often presented as formula for earthly happiness and ease.
            (a) Such takes focus off real problem and need — sin and salvation.
            (b) Such distorts reality of Christian's life — in world will have tribulation.
B. Let us not be ashamed of the “name of Christ”. (1 Pet. 4:14-16).
   1. The world has perverted the name of Christ. (cf. Matt. 24:5).
      a. “Christ” and “Christian” are badly abused.
      b. Terrible acts done daily by “Christians(?)” in name of Christianity.
      a. Shall we be ashamed to talk about being of Christ because of abuses?
      b. Shall we avoid the name “Christian” because of these abuses?
C. Let us not be of the “church(es) of Christ”. (Rom. 16:16).
   1. The world has perverted the “church(es) of Christ”.
      a. It has been denominationalized, institutionalized and fractionalized.
      b. It has been completely misunderstood and misrepresented by own members.
   2. The word of God still speaks of “churches of Christ” and “church of God”.
      b. Abuse and misunderstanding abandon use than is for gospel or name.
      c. It can be referred to in other ways — so can gospel and Christians.
   3. The efforts to conceal identity as “church of Christ” from public a problem.
      a. Signs, other advertisement and personal work techniques obvious efforts.
         (1) Do not doubt their sincerity.
         (2) Kind of sympathize with their problem
      b. Such efforts create some serious problems that need to be considered
         (1) Craftiness and guile. (2 Cor.4:2).
(2) Honesty (honorable) tactics in sight of all. (Rom. 12:17, cf. “bait & switch”)
(3) We may get caught by own craftiness. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:19).
   (a) “Independent” or “non-denominational” easily misunderstood.
       i) 26 “independent” churches in B’ham phone book.
       ii) 18 “non-denominational” churches.
   (b) “Christians meet here” subject to same misunderstandings.

Conclusion:
   A. We need to be ashamed of some things that we are not.
   B. We need to be happy to be identified with gospel, name or church of Christ.
      1. Making sure we understand and live up to what terms suggest.
      2. Trying our best to explain their Scriptural meaning to others.