

A script from



“The Office of Guilt Administration”

by
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- What** A woman is feeling guilty about not being a good enough Christian, so she visits The Office of Guilt Administration to find out just how truly awful she is.
Themes: Sin, Guilt, Grace, Forgiveness, Repentance
- Who** Woman
Clerk
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Window with Office of Guilt Administration sign
Papers for forms to fill out
Bible
- Why** 1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1
- How** Keep the dialogue conversational and be careful not to overact. If you are not able to have a window with a sign, simply use a table or a desk with a big sign so that the audience can see the lettering.
- Time** Approximately 5 minutes

Clerk's window at center stage, closed. Written above window are the words, "Office of Guilt Administration". **Woman** enters looking distraught, observes window. She hesitates a moment and then approaches window and knocks. Nothing happens. She knocks again. Still nothing. She looks irritated and draws back her hand to knock loudly. Suddenly...

Clerk: (Opening window) Well, I hope you're satisfied...

Woman: What? What did I do?

Clerk: You interrupted a perfectly good thought I was having.

Woman: I ... I'm ... sorry

Clerk: Well you really should be. But then, that's why you're here, isn't it?

Woman: It is?

Clerk: (Knocking on her forehead) Hello? Are those blonde roots I see in there, Dearie? (Pointing to sign) This is the Office of Guilt Administration. If you weren't feeling guilty about something, I'd hope you'd have sense enough to go bother someone else.

Woman: Oh, right. I'm sorry...

Clerk: I think we've established that fact. Could we move on here?

Woman: Of course. See, I went to another window, but they told me I should come over here...

Clerk: Who is "they"?

Woman: Well, the folks over at the Office of Paybacks

Clerk: Good people. Go on.

Woman: They said you might be able to help me take care of my...problem.

Clerk: From the looks of things, I doubt it. But why don't you tell me what this 'problem' of yours is and we'll try.

Woman: Well, see...I don't know quite how to say this...

Clerk: (Very sarcastically) Oh please! I can hardly stand the suspense!

Woman: I'm really sorry...

Clerk: Look, the Department of Redundancy Department is two doors down.

Woman: Oh, fine. I can't stand it any longer so I've come to get it all straightened out. *(Pause)* I'm here because I just don't feel like I'm living up to everyone's expectations of me.

Clerk: Finally! Now we're getting somewhere! You've certainly come to the right place. Let's get started with the paperwork. *(Pulls out stack of papers and begins reading from forms)* What'll it be? "Failure at Motherhood" form GA176, "Neglectful Wife" form GA121, "Kitchen Deficiencies" form GA299...?

Woman: You mean, there's a form for those things?

Clerk: Listen, you came here because you feel guilty, remember? Here's how it works. You come to us, you fill out a form for all the areas of your life you've failed in, and in four to six weeks, we give you a complete evaluation of just what a truly lousy person you are and exactly how badly you should feel about it.

Woman: I think I'm feeling worse already.

Clerk: We aim to please. So which forms do you want? Or should it be one of each?

Woman: *(Looking over forms)* Actually, I don't see the one I really need.

Clerk: Oh? And which one is that?

Woman: One for being a lousy Christian.

Clerk: *(Pause)* Uh oh!

Woman: What do you mean, "uh oh"?

Clerk: We get a lot of Christians in here. Guilt is a very big thing with you people. I hate to tell you this, but you're in the wrong place.

Woman: Really?

Clerk: You Christians don't need a Guilt Administrator.

Woman: Why not?

Clerk: I've seen it a thousand times. You Christians have that Grace thing going for you.

Woman: I know about all that, but you see, I'm not a very good Christian.

Clerk: And why do you say that?

Woman: I just don't feel like I'm doing all the things that God expects me to do. Everyone knows that in order to be a good Christian, God expects certain things of you. I try really hard, but I just can't seem to get it all together. I mean, there must be a million rules I've broken!

Clerk: You mean like The Ten Commandments and The Golden Rule and all that stuff?

Woman: Make that a million and eleven.

Clerk: *(Looking around)* Look, it isn't really my place, I mean this could cost me my job, but you've got it all wrong.

Woman: I don't think so. It's pretty simple. I really want to please God, but there's just no way He can be pleased with me these days. Just find me the right form and I'll fill it out, and you'll see.

Clerk: You don't need a form *(takes all forms from desk)*. All you need is this *(pulls out Bible)*.

Woman: Wait a minute. That's exactly what brought me here in the first place. It says that having a relationship with Jesus plus keeping all His rules is the way to truly please God. And believe me, I'm really lousy at it.

Clerk: The way I hear it, having a relationship with Jesus plus nothing is the way to truly please God. And I'll bet you're better at that than you think you are.

Woman: But aren't I supposed to feel guilty about all the things I mess up?

Clerk: Look, I'm a Guilt Administrator. You're asking the wrong person. I'm just telling you what I've heard.

Woman: So what am I supposed to do now?

Clerk: Tell you what. You take this *(hands her Bible)*. You go exploring. You see what you find. Now I got work to do. *(Looking past her, calling out)* Next?

Woman looks confused, rises and leaves.