

## THE BLAME GAME

WILLIS 8/15/10

Gen3:1-13

Our focus these past few months has been “Seeing the Forest from the Trees” or remembering what we are doing while we are in the midst of doing it. **In an ever increasing Kingdom where increase is a fundamental expectation, forgetfulness is certain defeat.**

- Two weeks ago we turned our attention to the relational factors of what we have been called to do. The ability to do relationships and do them over a long period of time is an ability that positions us for distinction.
- Relationships have become one of the disposable commodities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Whether it is the marital relationship, the parenting relationship or just friendships in general, culture now teaches us it is easier to throw relationships away than it is to nurture them over a long period of time.
- However throw away relationships are not an option for a Covenant People. **To build covenantally we must learn how to do relationships in a way that keeps accounts clear and offenses resolved.**

So two weeks ago we spoke to the power of esteeming others and building honor into our relational way. Today I want to speak to the issue of Blame Shifting and show us how quick we are to reject responsibility and play the Blame Game

Gen3:1-13

**In the passage we see the first three sins known to man.** (This is the law of first mention in relationship to sin)

1. **Willfulness** (The rebellion of doing that which is right in our own eyes)
2. **Fault finding** (The exposing of another’s nakedness)
3. **Blame shifting** (The refusing of personal responsibility when wrongs have been done)
  - We are facing a cultural epidemic of blame shifting. We see it evidenced through “victim rights,” fast food restaurants being sued for customer’s weight gain, automobile companies being sued for wreck less driving...
  - **Blame shifting is the power behind victimization.** “I’m sorry you made me hurt you.” How twisted is that?

The reason these three sins are so destructive is they go all the way back to origins, the evil they embody goes all the way back to the devil’s original intent. **When we participate in the sin of blame shifting we become party to a ancient power.**

- Faultfinding is the power behind the blame shifting spirit. Refuse the faultfinding spirit and you deal a death blow to blame shifting.

**Blame shifting is man's attempt to redirect the guilt which only the blood of Christ can remove.** Blame shifting is incapable of producing freedom. In fact blame shifting compounds guilt by making us guilty of the original sin and guilty of the sin of blaming others.

- When we assume responsibility for the sin committed we are cleansed by the blood and set free. If we attempt to shift blame and make it someone else's fault, we only compound the resulting guilt and render the blood ineffective.

As we know, the life of God is transmitted through relationship. Consequently relationships are a primary focus of attack. So to reach that place of life and distinction we must learn how to destroy this blame shifting spirit and render the blame game ineffective.

**1. Shift Our Focus from Blame to Responsibility: Mt7:3-5** Anybody can find fault or shift blame. **Faultfinding is not a spiritual gift so we need not try to be so good at it.** Adam said it was the woman; Eve said it was the serpent, ultimately they both blamed God.

- When the Blood is all sufficient there is no need to shift the blame. **In light of the Blood's power take responsibility, it will set you free.**
- Shifting blame compounds guilt; being responsible to repent removes guilt. When facing relational conflict be quick to repent and slow to shift blame.
- Don't compromise by pressing for blame sharing. "I'll own my sin if you will accept yours." Blame sharing still keeps the focus on the speck in your brother's eye. **Just own the log in your eye and let the Lord deal with the speck in your brother.**

Ultimately the Blame Game will kill you. Children who blame their parents for their lot in life impede the quality of their lives and shorten the number of their days.

- Ep6:1-3 "Children, obey your parents...honor your father and mother...that it may go well with you and that you may live long on the earth." Longevity of life is tied to relational clarity.
- If blame shifting leads to the withholding of your heart, Malachi 4 say's "you are under a curse."

**2. Receive Forgiveness 1Jn1:9** Jesus Christ is faithful and just to forgive. **In light of forgiveness we have no need to shift blame.** In light of forgiveness guilt is no longer an issue so we have no need to get out of it...we are already free from it.

- Mt6:14-15 To receive forgiveness we must be willing to extend forgiveness.
- **In a fallen world where broken relationship is the devil's primary focus, the choice to forgive will be the difference between life and death.**

- Consequently we must choose to forgive everyone, everywhere, everytime for everything. When we consider what we were forgiven of we must choose to forgive whoever, whenever, whyever for whatever.

**Pr28:13 “He who covers his sin will not prosper.”**

True and lasting freedom will never be found in shifting blame or locking ourselves up in unforgiveness. Real freedom is found only in repentance and forgiveness.

If you are here today stuck in the trap of shifting blame or choosing not to forgive...if you are here needing to forgive or take responsibility for your sin come and let our prayer team pray with you.