

Blameshifting

How to Deal with Blameshifting

This study was primary developed by Raymond Richards

1. What does the Bible have to say about man's natural condition?

- a. Genesis 6:5: _____
- b. Ecclesiastes 7:20: _____
- c. Romans 3:10: _____
- d. Romans 3:23: _____
- e. I John 1:8,10: _____

Because of man's pride, who does he naturally think is right? (Prov. 21 :2):

Who is responsible for your sins? _____

2. Read Matthew 7:1-5.

- a. What does Jesus say you should not do? _____
- b. What does He say you should do? _____
- c. Who is the guiltier party—the accused or the accuser? How do you know? (Refer to vs 4)

Assignment 1: List 50 ways you have been failing God as husband/wife, mother/ father, church member, Christian, employee, student, etc.

3. Read the following verses and write out how each shifted the blame to someone else.

- a. Genesis 3:12: _____
- b. Genesis 3:13: _____

How did blameshifting affect the relationship between Adam and Eve?

In what way is blameshifting contrary to the definition of love in I Corinthians 13:5, "Love does not behave itself unseemly, does not keep a record of wrongs..."?

c. Proverbs 19:3: _____

Are you blaming God for the results of your own foolishness?

d. Genesis 39:7-20: _____

Are you blaming someone else for your own sin? If so, whom are you blaming and what sin have you committed? _____

e. Numbers 13:26-14:6: _____

Are you blaming God for your lack of faith? For your unwillingness to accept and learn from providential changes and trials in your life? Have you been blaming someone else because things just don't go the way you want them to go?

f. I Samuel 15:1-23, particularly verses 15 and 21

1. What did God specifically command Saul to do (vs. 3)?

2. What did Saul do (vs. 9)? _____

3. Whom did he blame (vs. 15)? _____

g. If we seek to justify our actions and shift the blame to someone else, what will be the result (Job 9:20)? _____

4. How does God want you to deal with your sins?

- a. Proverbs 9:20: _____
- b. Psalm 32:5: _____
- c. Psalm 51:4: _____
- d. I Samuel 3:15-18: _____
- e. II Samuel 12:13: _____
- f. Psalm 103:3: _____
- g. I John 1:9: _____
- h. Matthew 5:23, 24: _____
- i. James 5:16: _____
- j. Micah 7:9: _____

Assignment 2: After you have made your list of failures (Assignment 1), ask God's forgiveness. If they have hurt another person, ask that person's forgiveness. If you have sinned against a group of people, go to that group and confess your sins publicly. *Your confession should be as public as the offense.*

5. What should be your response when someone blames you?

- a. Romans 12:17a: _____
- b. Romans 12:19: _____
- c. Philippians 4:4: _____
- d. I Thessalonians 5:18: _____
- e. I Peter 2:15: _____
- f. I Peter 2:23: _____
- g. I Peter 3:9: _____
- h. Titus 2:7, 8: _____
- i. I Peter 3:11: _____
- j. Ephesians 4:29: _____
- k. Luke 6:29: _____
- l. Luke 6:35: _____

6. The Bible says "pursue peace with all men" (I Pet. 3: 11) and "overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12: 21). Make a list of 25 things you can do or say to pursue peace and overcome evil with good.

Example: "Instead of complaining and blaming God for moving us to this new area, I am going to extend myself to my neighbors and ask them in for supper."

"If Mary is having a hard time getting supper ready, I'll set the table when I get home."

"Since the pastor is having a hard time of putting his message together because of his busy schedule, I am going to ask if I can do his correspondence for him."

7. To overcome blameshifting, you must:
- Take full responsibility for your own sins (Mic. 7: 9).
 - Thank God and others for bringing your sins to your attention (I Thess. 5:18).
 - Confess your sins to God and to others whom you have offended (I John 1:8; James 5:16).
 - Allow God to deal with the sins of others (Col. 3:25; Nah. 1:2).
 - Seek to change in the areas where you have sinned (Eph. 4:24).
 - Commend, bless, express appreciation, pray for others (Luke 6:35).
 - Maintain a blameless testimony by good works (I Pet. 2: 15).
 - Always seek to put the best construction on what others say or do (I Cor. 13 :5).

For your further edification, study these verses to discover how David handled a situation when he was mistreated by the wicked.

- Read Psalm 37:1-5
 - What was the circumstance of David's problem (vs. 1)? _____

 - What two commands does God give in verse 3? _____

- What does God say will be the inevitable fate of evildoers (vs. 2)? _____

Rather than retaliating toward those who seek your harm, according to verses 3, 4, 5 what should you be focusing on? _____

3. What promises does God give to those who trust Him and fulfill their responsibilities?

a. Verse 3: _____

b. Verse 4: _____

c. Verse 5: _____

d. Verse 6: _____

4. Should the focus of your life be on insisting on your rights or on fulfilling your responsibilities while trusting God?

5. How does retaliation evidence a lack of trust in God (cf. vs. 6: 1; I Pet. 2:23)?

6. Are you developing a pattern of blameshifting because there are areas of your life where you are being unfaithful, where you are not "dwelling in the land and doing good"? If so, what are they?

7. When has God "brought forth your righteousness as the light..."?

8. Are you more concerned about what others are thinking of you, about maintaining an image before others than you are about trusting God to exalt you and silence the foolish accusations of others by your good works?
