

The Blame Game

As the weeks fly by, it is apparent that the division in this world and more specifically our nation is getting worse. Everything that goes wrong in anyone's life is always somebody else's fault. Self-accountability is all but gone as no one takes responsibility for their actions. Granted, there may be more that *do* admit fault and guilt but all too often we never get to witness it.

To some it is far more important to be *right* than *righteous*. Some will argue a point until their veins burst to make sure their argument scores the victory...however small and insignificant the reward is. Why so much division, anger, and hatred? Anyone who knows God's Word knows this is nothing new (**Ecclesiastes 1:9**).

Matthew 10:34-36- "Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man at variance against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's enemies *shall be those of* his own household."

John 15:18-19- “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have personally chosen you out of the world, the world hates you for this.”

Jesus knew, He told us, so we know. It is no surprise. It is difficult to deal with at times as we are surrounded by a world gone mad and a church of “believers” who do not follow or obey God’s Word and Commandments. But blaming each other is nothing recent for sure. Just looking through the Bible we can find over 240 scriptures using “blame or blameless.”

In checking with our source at Merriam-Webster, blame is defined as- to find fault, hold responsible, or place responsibility. There are instances of factual use of “blame;” finding fault in a car crash, a criminal prosecution, various cases of establishing origins where facts are needed and not the finger pointing we have been or all are guilty of. How many times in your life have you blamed someone for something or held someone responsible for something for which they were not responsible? Many walk with their heads in the clouds believing they are above reproach and no matter what occurs, it is never their fault. They never assume responsibility. We can begin going back to Genesis in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:9-13- “And the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” And he said, “I heard You *walking* in the garden, and I was afraid because I *am* naked, and *so* I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten of the tree which I commanded you that you should not eat?” And the man said, “**The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree**, and I ate.” And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?” **And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”**

Right after Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit, sin and guilt was upon them. They did not hold themselves accountable for what they had just done. Adam actually blamed God by saying “the woman You gave me.” Eve did not fare much better, but at least she blamed the serpent. Accountability for one’s own actions were now free to blame anyone and anything for wrong doing.

Going ahead to Genesis 16, we read that even Sarai blamed Abram for conceiving a child with her maidservant Hagar, even though she (Sarai) sent her into to Abram to conceive a child.

Genesis 16:1-5- “Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, did not bear him any children. And she had a maidservant, an Egyptian, and her name *was* Hagar. And Sarai said to

Abram, “Behold now, the LORD has kept me from bearing. I pray you go in to my maidservant. It may be that I may obtain children by her.” And Abram hearkened to the words of Sarai. And Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maidservant, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife (after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan). And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when *Hagar* saw that she had conceived, she looked *upon* her mistress with contempt. And Sarai said to Abram, “My wrong *be* upon you. I have given my maidservant into your bosom, and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes. The LORD judge between me and you.”

How many wives would even consider such a thing in today’s society? In Biblical times it was not particularly uncommon to have multiple wives, or for a wife to send her husband in to be with a handmaiden for the purpose of bearing a son. Jacob and Rachel in Genesis 30 did the same with Bilhah who bore a son, Dan (**Genesis 30:1-6**).

But placing blame on one’s spouse is again nothing new. It is far easier to point out the faults of others rather than acknowledge our own shortcomings and failures. Blaming others for our own misgivings is not edifying anyone and certainly does

not glorify God. Which if we would remember to glorify Him in the first place, we may not have as many failures!

Romans 14:17-19- “For the kingdom of God is not a *matter* of eating and drinking; rather, *it is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*
Because the one who serves Christ in these things is well pleasing to God and acceptable among men. So then, **we should pursue the things of peace and the things that edify one another.**”

1 Thessalonians 5:11- “Therefore, **encourage one another, and edify one another**, even as you are already doing.”

How many arguments would no longer exist if people would stop blaming one another and took responsibility for their own actions? Better yet, how many arguments would exist if everyone loved and trusted God as they should and kept Him first in their house and lives? Something to consider...Besides, we are not to take offense in anything.

Psalms 119:165- “Great peace have they which love thy law: and **nothing shall offend them.**”(KJV)

Luke 7:23- “And blessed is everyone who shall not be offended in Me.”

Proverbs 10:12- “Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.”

We not only blame family members, but we also blame each other, the government/politicians (understandable), inanimate objects (this one is my biggest fault), the news, weather, health, and anything that will take the focus off of ourselves. We even blame God. “God why are You letting this happen?” Have you ever or ever heard anyone say this?

James 1:13-16- “Do not let anyone who is tempted say, “I am being tempted by God” because God is not tempted by evil, and He Himself tempts no one *with evil*. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away and is enticed by his own lust. And after lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is completely finished, brings forth death. Do not deceive yourselves, my beloved brethren.”

We fail to remember the trials we may face are not brought about because God enjoys it or He wants to tempt us, but they may be permitted tests He allows us to endure so we grow and develop spiritually.

James 1:2-4- “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials, Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But let endurance have *its* perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking in anything.”

More often than not, the prideful will not acknowledge a trial as being from God but just a matter of “happenstance.” If you have had a run of seemingly “bad luck” financially, health issues, work related stress, family problems, or any of the other countless trials we face, maybe God is trying to get your attention without zapping you with a bolt of lightning. If this is the case, it may be time for some judgment, standing naked in front of a mirror. When you finish laughing, cringing, or look deep into your own conscience, get on your knees, and have a chat with God.

When we blame others for our own mistakes or misfortunes, are we not judging them in some *wrong* way?

Matthew 7:1-5- “Do not condemn *others*, so that you yourself will not be condemned; For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged; and with what measure you mete out, it shall be measured again to you. Now why do you look at the sliver that *is* in your brother’s eye, but you do not perceive the beam in

your *own* eye? Or how will you say to your brother, ‘Allow *me* to remove the sliver from your eye;’ and behold, the beam *is* in your *own* eye?” *You* hypocrite, first cast out the beam from your *own* eye, and then you shall see clearly to remove the sliver from your brother’s eye.”

Jude 1:14-19- “And Enoch, *the* seventh from Adam, also prophesied of these, proclaiming, “Behold, *the* Lord comes with ten thousands of His holy saints To execute judgment against all, and to convict all who are ungodly of all their works of *evil* ungodliness that they have impiously committed, and of all the hard *things* that ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” These are complainers *and* critics, who are walking after their own personal lusts, *while* their mouths are speaking great swelling words, flattering persons for the sake of advantage. But you, beloved, remember the words that were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; Because they said to you that in the last time there would be mockers, who would be selfishly walking according to their own ungodly lusts. These are the ones who cause division; *they* are psychic, **not having the Spirit of God.**”

We blame each other, we blame God, we know we blame the devil, sometimes we do blame ourselves. Being accountable for our own actions and conduct is **our responsibility**.

Jeremiah 2:17- “Have you not brought this on yourself, in that you have forsaken the LORD your God, when He led you by the way?”

Essentially forgetting our walk and commitment to God is at the core of nearly all our issues. We forget our calling and the covenant we made at Baptism. We forget to love God first! True we are human, but keeping in mind God is our **first love** will keep us on track.

Ezekiel 33:3-6- “If, when he sees the sword come upon the land, he blows the ram’s horn and warns the people, Then whoever hears the sound of the ram’s horn and does not take warning, if the sword does come and take him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the ram’s horn and did not take warning. His blood shall be on himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have delivered his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the ram’s horn and the people are not warned; if the sword comes and

takes *any* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity. But I will require his blood at the watchman's hand.””

This scripture reminds me of Hurricane Katrina a few years ago. Because of our technology and satellite capabilities, our weather forecasts are fairly accurate.

When radar shows a massive Category 5 hurricane headed your way with a predicted landfall, you can rest assured that you're in for some severe times. People ignoring to prepare for disaster have no one to blame but themselves. Isn't that one of the reasons we have God's Word to prepare for what is coming?

Ezekiel 3:19-21- “Yet if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. And when the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die. Because you have not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the righteous so that the righteous does not sin, and if he does not sin, he shall surely live because he is warned; also, you have delivered your soul.”

The tragedy in this is trying to share a warning with someone and their pride blinds them to God's truth. They choose to remain the way they are and "not change" or be *right* rather than *righteous*. We cannot change anyone's mind or heart, only God can **if they are willing**. He may use us as an example along with trials or storms, but it always comes down to the individual's *own heart* and their *individual walk* with God. If there's an ounce of pride, spiritual blindness is crippling. We can only pray for them. God is the ultimate judge.

Psalm 7:8- "The LORD shall judge the people; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to my integrity within me."

Psalm 75:7- "But God is judge; He puts down one and sets up another,"

James 4:12- "But there is *only* one Lawgiver, Who has power to save and to destroy. Who are you that you presume to judge another?"

Romans 14:13- "But God is judge; He puts down one and sets up another,"

Being a judge may be a future role in God's Kingdom here on Earth, but until we are appointed into such role, we must avoid putting on a black robe just yet.

1 Corinthians 4:4-5- “Now I am not conscious of anything against myself, yet I am not justified by this; for the One Who is judging me is *the* Lord. Therefore, do not judge anything before *the* time; *wait* until the Lord comes, Who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the motives of *all* hearts; and then shall each one receive praise from God.”

People that focus on being right rather than righteous also focus more on blame than being *blameless*.

Psalms 18:20-23- “The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands, He has repaid me, For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God; For all His ordinances were before me, and I did not put away His statutes from me. I was also blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity.”

Philippians 2:14-15- “Do all things without complaints and disputes; So that you may be blameless and without offense, innocent children of God in *the* midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as lights in *the* world,”

Colossians 1:21-22- “For you *were* once alienated and enemies in *your* minds by wicked works; but now He has reconciled *you* In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unimpeachable before Him;”

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13- “Now may the Lord make you to exceed and to abound in love toward one another and toward all, even as we also *abound in love* toward you, That your hearts may be established blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”

Are you ignoring any part of God’s Word? If so, your trials are your own doing and there is nobody to **blame but yourself**. We can see throughout scripture that blame has a tie to disobedience and unrighteousness.

Proverbs 10:27-29- “The fear of the LORD prolongs days, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. The hope of the righteous *is* gladness, but the expectation of the wicked shall perish. The way of the LORD *is* strength to the upright, but destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity.”

Proverbs 20:7- “A righteous man who walks in his integrity, his children *are* blessed after him.”

Remember standing in front of the mirror? Looking inward before the finger pointing is a good practice.

Lamentations 3:40-41- “Let us test and examine our ways and return again to the LORD. Let us lift up our heart *and* hands to God in heaven.”

Staying close and growing in God’s Word is the way to overcoming the fleshly obstacles that beset us. God rewards the righteous.

2 Samuel 22:21-23- “The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness according to the cleanness of my hands He has rewarded me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all His judgments *were* before me. And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them.”

Psalms 84:11-12- “For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You.”

Playing the blame game is in our human nature. It began with Adam and Eve and will continue through the Millennial Kingdom and the Second

Resurrection. We must strive to be blameless in God's Eyes, blaming others will only bring judgment back upon ourselves.

Psalm 119:80- "Let my heart be blameless in Your statutes, so that I may not be ashamed."

Before we are so quick to point out a speck in someone's eye, remember to look at the lumber yard in our own. Loving God first will open our eyes and hearts to loving others without searching for faults.

1 Thessalonians 5:23- "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your entire spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Remember, when you point your index finger at someone else, you have three fingers pointing back at you! Living by every Word of God and the desire to be blameless by His standards begins in our hearts. It is why we were called. Amen.