

Scriptures and Doctrine :: Spotlight on Blame

Spotlight on Blame - posted by roadsign (), on: 2015/10/13 10:51

“The man said, ‘The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’ (â€œ) The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ (Genesis 3:12 NIV)

“Itâ€™s that womanâ€™s fault!!” declared Adam,
 “Itâ€™s not!!” shouted Eve. “Itâ€™s that serpentâ€™s fault!!”
 “Mission accomplished,” mused the serpent.

You are familiar with this scenario in Genesis. Adam, to his horror, realizes that God is aware of his sin, and thereâ€™s no hiding it â€œ. Or is there? Suddenly a lightbulb goes on in Adamâ€™s mind. He grabs Eve and thrusts her between himself and God. Then he declares, “God, donâ€™t look at me! Look at her. Sheâ€™s the one!â€œ

In blaming Eve, Adam has just used her as a scapegoat. He exposes her before the Almighty in an attempt to protect himself! What a cruel way to treat oneâ€™s beloved wife!

Thatâ€™s essentially what blame does. Weâ€™ve all done it. Itâ€™s instinctive. We blame another to protect ourselves. We blame because we canâ€™t bear the shame of condemnation. We canâ€™t face our naked, flawed condition. So we look for another to absorb the shame that is really our own. We may even blame the devil, as Eve did. Or we blame God, as Adam did in telling God, “The woman YOU put here with meâ€œâ€œ If God is not blamed directly, then His followers may bear the brunt. For centuries, Godly Christians have been blamed and scapegoated. This is how countless have suffered and died for their faith in Christ.

Blame is self-protective; yet it is also self-defeating. It will never liberate us from the unbearable shame of our sinful condition. Furthermore, blame imprisons us in the grip of victimhood. We see ourselves as victims of another and take no responsibility for ourselves.

Blame is the antithesis of love. It puts barriers in relationships - from marriages to entire nations. Above all, blame keeps us from enjoying sweet communion with God. And thatâ€™s just what the â€œserpentâ€œ wanted!

Thatâ€™s a spotlight on blame â€œ in part. Only on the cross do we see the full spotlight on blame. There blame finds its fullest vent. There is where unrepentant sinners thrust Jesus between themselves and God, and said, “Heâ€™s the one!â€œ The cross is where Jesus becomes the blamed one, the scapegoat â€œ not merely by his accusers, but vicariously by all humanity. The cross is where Jesus bore the ultimate outworking of sin. Unrepentant sinners canâ€™t face that; and so â€œconsidered him stricken by God.” Isaiah 53:4b

Now for the supreme paradox: The very vortex of blame - the cross itself - becomes the very vortex of hope. The cruel outworking of blame could not overcome our Lord. He was risen, victorious over sinâ€™s grip. And now, through our identity in Him, we are liberated from shame and condemnation. As we learn to rest securely in His promised forgiveness, we find ourselves freed from the inclination to blame. We are free to openly acknowledge our own shortcomings â€œ just as revealed by the Spirit. In turn, we experience the exhilarating joy of being forgiven.

Through Christ, sin need no longer drive a wedge between us and God. For in Him we are marvelously re-united with the Father. And thatâ€™s NOT what the â€œserpentâ€œ wanted!

Prayer:

Holy God, empower us to know and grasp, ever more deeply, your forgiveness through Christ, and thereby be freed from our penchant to blame.

DE

Re: Spotlight on Blame - posted by ThyKingCome (), on: 2015/10/13 13:53

I really enjoyed reading this post - thank you for sharing your insights with us sister. I especially found this part helpful:

"Blame is self-protective; yet it is also self-defeating. It will never liberate us from the unbearable shame of our sinful condition. Furthermore, blame imprisons us in the grip of victimhood. We see ourselves as victims of another and take no responsibility for ourselves.

Blame is the antithesis of love. It puts barriers in relationships - from marriages to entire nations. Above all, blame keeps us from enjoying sweet communion with God. And that's just what the "serpent" wanted!"

Blame imprisons us in the grip of victimhood. Profound.

Blame is so the opposite of Christ and the Cross! Jesus bore the sins of others that were not even His own, and yet it's so hard to even own our sin!

Thank you!

-Kevin

Re: Spotlight on Blame - posted by yuehan, on: 2015/10/14 14:11

Thanks for sharing your thoughts, Diane.

I've realized that blame-shifting and reluctance to admit wrongdoing is linked to my desire to establish my own righteousness.

When I give up my self-righteousness for Christ's righteousness, He is there embracing me. Yes, He removes the sin and shame... and by opening up to God, I have also allowed Him to minister to my hurt.

And I find myself no longer wearing rags, but the robes which He bought for me. (c.f. Parable of the Wedding Feast in Matt 22:1-14)

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2015/10/15 16:28

yuehan said:

Quote:
-----I've realized that blame-shifting and reluctance to admit wrongdoing is linked to my desire to establish my own righteousness.

You would think that, in view of God's gift of forgiveness, God's people would be eager to confess, acknowledge, and admit their shortcomings. However, righteousness is a coveted commodity among God's people, so it's not surprising that we see so much blame-shifting. We cling to those "fig leaves" when we don't have to!

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2015/10/15 16:32

Quote:
-----Blame is so the opposite of Christ and the Cross!

Imagine if we could see this more clearly. We'd certainly exhibit more spiritual maturity. We'd take responsibility for ours

elves rather than focus on the wrongs with the other.

Re: Spotlight on Blame - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2015/10/15 19:03

Great post...

Reminds me of a situation I encountered recently. A husband cheated on his wife, but he blamed her because of something she did. I felt like someone kicked me in the stomach: how could he say that? He is married to a close relative of mine...Anyhow, she apologized with him not assuming any responsibility for his sin. And..the probability is he will do a repeat performance because he is not taking ownership of his sin. It's his wife's fault - how on earth can a wife look up to such a weak man like that?

Can't.

Anyhow, this is my rabbit trail..

Sandra

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2015/10/15 21:13

Sandra,

There seems to be no end of such "rabbit trails".

It's hard to stop the habit of blaming when others are willing to take the blame. It may seem easier that way. However, in the long run it doesn't encourage one to move toward the cross.