



“BESTOWING BLAME”

Dr. David H. McKinley

In an article entitled, “Forget Responsibility, Blame Someone Else”, Ron French of the Gannett New Service asserts,

“Ducking responsibility has become an American pastime. We all have learned to play the blame game, where the seven deadly sins are acceptable syndromes, and criminals are victims. From life long smokers suing tobacco companies, to students rationalizing cheating, we’ve become a nation of whiners and cry babies. ‘It’s part of the American character nowadays,’ says Charles Sykes, A Nation of Victims. ‘We’ve gone from a society of people who were self-reliant to a people who inherently refuse to accept responsibility.’”

From the earliest account, blame is rampant in human relationships.

⁸Toward evening they heard the LORD God walking about in the garden, so they hid themselves among the trees. ⁹The LORD God called to Adam, “Where are you?” ¹⁰He replied, “I heard you, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.” ¹¹“Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten the fruit I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²“Yes,” Adam admitted, “but it was the woman you gave me who brought me the fruit, and I ate it.”
Genesis 3:8-12

Blame = Be Lame!

Key Idea: A weakened sense of responsibility does not weaken the fact of responsibilities in my life.

LET’S TALK ABOUT PLAYING THE “BLAME GAME”

In a discussion on marriage entitled, “The Great Cover Up,” Pastor Rick Warren provides insights into human responses to being threatened. A found these insights invaluable in providing motivation for blaming others.

- **When I am afraid of my faults, I become defensive.**
- **When I am afraid of my feelings, I become distant.**
- **When I am afraid of losing freedom, I become demanding.**

LET’S TALK ABOUT AVOIDING THE “BLAME TRAP”

More than taking responsibility, I want to challenge you to become a person of *respect*.

• Start with Honesty

“People who cover their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.”

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)

“If we say we have not sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.” I John 1:8

“Cleanse me from my hidden faults.” Psalm 19:12

• Speak with Integrity

“Take responsibility for your life by starting with your mouth.”

“Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain.” Proverbs 25:14 (NKJV)

“He who walks with integrity walks securely.” Prov. 10:9

Reliability and responsibility produce stability.

• Serve with Intensity

“It’s not what we do that matters, but how much love we put into it.” —Mother Teresa

“If your goals are good, you will be respected.”

Proverbs 11:27

• Share with Generosity

Becoming a person of respect means becoming a generous person. You think of what you can give to others, rather than what you don’t have: you wants, your needs, your hurts, etc.

• Succeed with Humility

“Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor.”

Proverbs 29:23

Character is always a matter of choice!

You cannot control the circumstances of your life, but you can move from the lame condition of blaming, by lifting your life value with a character of respect.

Final Thought:

“Everyone of us will give account of himself to God.”

Romans 14:12