

BLAMESHIFTING

How to Deal with Blameshifting

(This homework was primarily 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 verse 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? _____

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 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:

- a. Take full responsibility for your own sins (Mic. 7:9).
- b. Thank God and others for bringing your sins to your attention (I Thess. 5:18).
- c. Confess your sins to God and to others whom you have offended (I John 1:8; James 5:16).
- d. Allow God to deal with the sins of others (Col. 3:25; Nah. 1:2).
- e. Seek to change in the areas where you have sinned (Eph. 4:24).
- f. Commend, bless, express appreciation, pray for others (Luke 6:35).
- g. Maintain a blameless testimony by good works (I Pet. 2:15).
- h. 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.

1. Read Psalm 37:1-5.

a. What was the circumstance of David's problem (vs. 1)?

b. What two commands does God give in verse 3?

2. 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: _____