

## **The Blame Game**

Series: The Search for Significance

Romans 8:1-2 (1725)

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The Blame Game *Those who fail are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished.*

# **I. The heavy load of guilt and condemnation—the blame game**

## **a. Living with the fear of impending punishment**

Robert McGee *If we believe that performance reflects one's value and that failure makes one unacceptable and unworthy of love, then we will usually feel completely justified in condemning those who fail, including ourselves.*

Revelation 12:10 NIV *Satan ... [is] the accuser of our brothers and sisters*

## **b. Potential consequences of believing this lie**

Robert McGee *No wonder there are so many bitter, angry Christians, considering all those who are deceived into believing that Satan's activity is really God at work in their lives.*

# **II. God has made a way to free us from guilt and condemnation**

## **a. We must start by seeing God as he is clearly presented in Scripture**

Robert McGee *Only if we understand the horror of coming under the wrath of a holy God for our sins will we appreciate what Christ did on the cross.*

## **b. God's provision is fully adequate and totally effective**

Isaiah 53:4-6 NLT *Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! <sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. <sup>6</sup>All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.*

1 John 4:9-10 NIV <sup>9</sup>*This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.*<sup>10</sup> *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

Romans 8:1-2 NIV *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.*

Robert McGee *Guilt has a restricted meaning in the New Testament. It refers to humankind's condition prior to salvation. Only the non-Christian is actually guilty before God.*

**c. Condemnation verses conviction—confidence for daily living**

Hebrews 4:16 AMPC *Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].*

<b>Condemnation's focus</b>	<b>Conviction's focus</b>
I am unworthy	This act is unworthy of Christ/destructive
What will others think of me?	This act hinders my intimacy with God
Now I'm going to get it!	This behavior robs me of God's intent
It is Satan who brings condemnation	It is the Holy Spirit who brings conviction
Leads to depression and more sin	Leads to repentance and intimacy
Shame and alienation from God/others	Leads to restoration of right relationships
Ends in depression, bitterness, self-pity	Ends in the total freedom of forgiveness