Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery (healing) will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry, and He will say, “Here I am”, if you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness. ’ Isaiah 58:8-9

The blame game. It is the most widely played game in the world. It is a game in which everyone plays, but unfortunately, every player loses.

Shifting blame started with our first parents. Adam and Eve were the world’s first blameshif ters. When they sinned against God in the Garden of Eden, the first thing they did was to blame someone else for their failure to obey the Lord. Read the account in Genesis chapter 3.

When Adam and Eve were confronted by God for eating the forbidden fruit, they did not take responsibility for their actions. Adam, the head of the marriage relationship and directly accountable to God for himself and his wife said in verse 12 “And the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”

Do you see the blame shift? Adam ate the forbidden fruit all right. But he pointed his finger at his wife. And here is the real kicker…he pointed his finger of blame at God too. “The woman whom You gave to be with me....” Adam was saying, God, it is your fault and the woman’s fault, not mine.

Then Eve followed Adam’s example of blaming shifting. In verse 13 we read “Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done? And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me and I ate.” Yes Lord, I ate the fruit. But it wasn’t my fault. It was the serpent’s fault. Blame shift was the name of the game for Eve too.

For over six thousands years of humanity’s history, from generation to generation, blaming shifting has taken center stage in human relationships. It seems as if shifting the blame is in our emotional DNA!

We have all shifted the blame at one time or another. Each of us has pointed our finger at someone to find fault and to pin the problem on them.
Isaiah has a timely and encouraging word for all who would like to find healing and recovery in their lives. In Isaiah 58: 8-9, this is what the prophet says:

- Light will break out like sunrise and chase away darkness.
- Healing and recovery will come speedily (quickly!).
- God will go before us and cover our backside!
- We will cry and God will hear us. He will be with us.

How will this all happen? **WHEN we stop pointing the finger and speaking wickedness against others!!!**

Could it be that many broken hearts remain unhealed and estranged relationships remain unreconciled because we point our fingers at each other and speak wickedly about one another? That is exactly what Isaiah says.

Someone once said “A man is never a failure until he blames someone else.”

Adam and Eve were escorted out of Eden because they pointed the finger instead of taking responsibility for their actions. They spoke wickedly instead of repenting of their sin and seeking God’s forgiveness.

**You and I live outside of God’s best will and plan for us when we point the finger and speak wickedness.** No wonder so many people, including many professing Christians, do not find healing for the hurt they feel in their hearts.

Blame shifters say things like this: “It’s not my fault.” “You did it—not me.” “Did you hear what they did to me?” “I didn’t do anything wrong.” “He/she messed it up.”

Here are a few reasons why people blame shift.

1. **Blaming others means I don’t have to take responsibility for my behavior.**
2. **Blaming others permits me to deny my part in the problem.**
3. **Pride keeps us from humbling ourselves and stopping blaming others**
4. **A spirit of offense keeps us pointing the finger at others.**
5. **Blaming others is the easy way out of having to face the people we have hurt.**
6. **Blameshifters are emotionally and relationally immature.**
7. **Pointing the finger is a form of emotional pay back to those who hurt us.**

**Blame shifting stands in the way of forgiveness and reconciliation.**
While we are pointing our finger at others, we are not focused on what God would have us to do to heal and restore the strained relationship. The Blame Game excuses us from pointing a finger at our own faults and shortcomings. If I am blaming you, then I don’t have to deal with my blame in our relationship. And blaming others keeps us from looking at our heart where God is pointing His finger at us.

Ephesians 4:31-32 states “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Please note we are to put away all the ugly stuff in verse 31 and put on the good stuff in verse 32. With kind, tender hearts, we are to forgive each other in the same way God has forgiven us in Christ. Forgiveness, not fault finding through finger pointing, is God’s will for those who have received His forgiveness.

You and I sinned (Romans 3:23). We blew it big time. But God doesn’t point His finger at us and speak wickedly about who we are and what we have done. No. Instead, He sent His only son Jesus Christ to pay the price for our sin (John 3:16-17). Jesus took the blame for our sin upon Himself so we could be free from our sin (Isaiah 53:1-12).

Because Jesus took the blame for our sins, we have no right to blame others for their sins.

How To Get Off the Blameshifting Bandwagon

• Take full responsibility for your attitudes and behavior.
• Give up what you think is your right to always be right.
• Do not give in to the spirit of offense. Develop a warm heart and thick skin.
• Refuse to find fault with others. Choose to find the good in them.
• If someone has wronged you, instead of pointing your finger at them, pray for them and let God deal with them.

If everyone stopped blaming each other, the blame game would be run out of town. Blameshifting would be old hat.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if each of us took responsibility for our own lives and released others to take responsibility for their lives?

Ending The Blame Game
➢ Is there someone you are finding fault with? Who are you pointing your finger at and blaming for your troubles? Name that person__________________________.

➢ What exactly are you blaming them for? Be specific. ________________________________.

➢ Do you really have just cause for finding fault with them? Or are you just trying to protect your emotional turf? Are you looking for someone to be a scapegoat for your poor behavior? Be honest with yourself.

➢ Have you prayed about this situation? If so, what has the Lord shown you about your blame shifting? What would He have you do to begin the healing process of this relationship?

➢ I believe Jesus would have me ____________________________________________________________________________.

➢ What are you waiting for? Go humbly and with a compassionate heart to seek forgiveness for your faults and be willing to grant forgiveness to the other party. Be the big person. Take the first step to reconciliation. Be open to the other person and their feelings about your situation. Make it your goal to end the blame shifting from your side of the relationship.

➢ Allow God’s Word and the Holy Spirit to heal the hurt you have caused each other and to restore you to a renewed, blame shifting free relationship.

**Blame free relationships is the name of the new game in town!**

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