

CNL Season 2009

## 2.1 Beating the Blame Game pt 1

### Transcription

That is great, did you'll get it. Got it" Good yeah. You know, blame – that is something we love to do. We live in a culture actually of blame. IT's everybody else's fault, it's never our fault if something goes wrong. Well today, we're gonna find out how God actually deals with this and what he thinks about the concept of the blame game; where we're constantly pointing fingers and finding blame in others when maybe we need to deal with certain things ourselves. But if I can, let's just go ahead – I want to remind you by the way; some good news for those of you who used to listen to Adam McMannis. He's back. He works in our children's ministry – he's back on KSLR and Adam congratulations, it's good to have you back on the air between 3:00 and 5:00 pm. And we also are doing a thing called the Principles of Parenting. So, if you would like to be a part of the Principles of Parenting, its' called Life on the Edge and it starts on April 2. I tell you, you will love this class. And also, you have these little cards which are nearby, if you could complete those and drop them in the boxes on the way out. Just let us know that you are here. If you have any need, we're here for you. And as always we love little ones here, so there's a mother's nursing room back there. If your little one gets fussy, or through these double doors, just in case you need to go back there with a bunch of toys, back there for the moms and dads to play with while the children sleep. So, anyway, we'd love to just have you enjoy today's service and let's go ahead and pray over this time. Father, in Jesus' name thank you for this moment in time, we can study your word. Touch our hearts and minds; make us more into the image of Jesus Christ. And we thank you; we thank you so much for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gave his life so we could be here today. We pray these things in Jesus' name. And God's people said, amen, amen. IF you'll look inside your bulletin – Beating the Blame Game, Beating the Blame Game. Could ya'll say that with me. Beating

the Blame Game. We need to make sure that we are beating the blame game; that we don't get overcome by it. You know, you saw in that skit, "It's all her fault." "It's all his fault" It's all their fault" Finger pointing, it's something that all of us like to do. We don't really like to take responsibility for our actions. It reminds me recently of a –you know, everybody knows. Franky of course. Frank, a friend of his went out of town, they moved out of town and they left him a parrot. And unfortunately they were not Christians, the people that owned this parrot. And they gave him this parrot and this parrot – you may have heard about, through, you know, people sharing this. This parrot swears like crazy. It screams and yells. It rants and raves, it's insulting – it's an insulting parrot. And for the last few weeks, Frank has been trying to get this parrot to quit swearing and insulting everyone that comes into the room. I mean, it's (parrot sounds) one thing after another. This parrot keeps swearing and insulting people. Frank has worked with it every day, it goes and tries to read Bible verses and he tries to read really nice things to it. Nice expressions like, "How do you do today.

And the parrot just screams and yells and insults him. Well, after several weeks of this apparently Frank got frustrated the other day and well, I got to tell you, he grabbed the parrot, shoot it and put it in the freezer. And he heard this screaming and squawking and swearing and you know, all this insulting language coming from inside the freezer when suddenly, it stopped. And Frank really felt bad and was afraid he might have hurt the bird. So, he opened the freezer door and out very calmly walked this parrot and just cleared its throat and said, "Frank, I believe that I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. And I will endeavor at once to correct my behavior. I am truly sorry and do beg for your forgiveness." Frank was totally freaked out. Right when he was gonna ask the parrot why the change, the parrot continued and says, "But may I ask, what did the chicken in there do?" Well, today, the reason that I tell that story is because you know a lot of times we come to church, we think this is a great sermon for the other chicken. But I want to let you know, today, each and every one of us need to hear God's Word and apply it to our lives. Amen? Sometimes it takes a moment with the frozen

chickens for us to get what God is saying. As we look at God's Word today, we need to understand why have we gotten caught up- and I think a lot of it is individualism, humanism, secularism; all the "isms" of our age, that entitle us to not accept responsibility. And I don't think anybody here is surprised that in the last forty, fifty years in America, the concept of responsibility has dramatically changed: People accepting responsibility. We are what I call, an accuse and excuse culture. We always accuse; it's not my fault it's my relative's, my in-law's, it's my ancestors. It's somebody else's fault, not mine, to excuse ourselves. So, today, if I can encourage, it comes down to what's in our mind and what is in our heart. Could ya'all read Proverbs 23:7 with me please: Proverbs 23:7; For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he. For as a man thinks in his heart. That's really who you are. It's gonna come out inevitably, I believe that as we believe-whatever our beliefs are, they will determine our behavior. Amen? What ever our beliefs are, they determine our behavior. So, we as Christians, even have changed our belief system in responsibility. Can you say the word "responsibility". "Responsibility." We don't have quite the level of responsibility, even in our culture as Christians, we used to have. Let's take a look at it, as what has happened. Would you read these two 2 Corinthians passages with me, "And even in our gospel is veiled, it is veiled those who are perishing. God of this age, has blinded the minds of unbelievers." And continue: "For we are not ignorant of the enemy's schemes." Now if you could circle the word "scheme" there, it's very important. And the reason it is important, is because, if you also circle the word "minds", which is in the line right above it; I want to tell you that the root word of mind is the same root word in Greek, for the word schemes. Interesting. In other words, the mind is a place that can scheme, but it is a concept, as you can see here in the Bible as it talks about how the enemy is constantly scheming. And that we see he is scheming in our mind. Did you know that, that's some of the best ground for the devil to scheme and to bend things, is in your mind? If he can bend the truth, on what is an absolute truth in your mind, then it will alter everything you do in life. If he can bend your belief system, just enough, then every thing that comes out of that shoot, is gonna come out at a curve

and its gonna miss the mark. You know, when you have even our phrasing today – did you know that the framing of debate and issues is done in the original word used in it? It's funny, we're watching pro-war versus anti-war protesters. And yet, ironically enough, I don't think it's true-I think that there may be antiwar protestors, but I would not say that the people on the other side that are in the gulf are pro-war. They're pro-peace, they're pro-democracy, whatever. But, whoever has framed the issue of pro-war versus antiwar have framed it. People who use the word, pro-choice have framed the issue. They've made it a choice issue, rather than a pro-death issue which is – the death and murder of innocent children who have no choice. It's all a matter of framing the issues. And as long as Satan can bend our thinking process back here in the battlefield in the mind, he will win points after that because our pitch from life our speech will be distorted and everything will miss the mark. We as believers have to be aware that the blame game is one of Satan's ways that he has removed from our Christian faith. Many times, even we as Christians get caught up in the blame game, it's never our fault when we do something. And God, listen carefully, cannot mature or disciple this child who doesn't accept responsibility. Now, how did ya'll get born again? You believe Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, right? And you confess your sin, right? Now, what if this had been your prayer, "Dear Lord, I confess a tremendous amount of sin in my neighbor's life and I want to just accept responsibility for his, well, ok. I want him to accept responsibility for my sins." Can you imagine what kind of weird prayer that would have been? Would you have been born again if you had not admitted you were a sinner? No. What do you need to do to be born again, admit that you need to be born again, right? You have to admit sin. Well as believers we have to continue going through life, where we are responsible, accept our responsibility. I've always found it fascinating since I lived in Israel and since then, watching the blame game. Bombers, you pack with bombs, when the PLO or terrorist organizations walk into a supermarket or a Barmitzvah, blow themselves up and murder dozens of children, men and women and blame it on the United States for not giving them a Palestinian state. And I think to myself, has anybody ever

thought of blaming the bombers? Has anybody ever thought of, actually having the accountable parties responsible for what they do? We have gotten so distorted, by the way, I'm gonna read you a couple of things to show you how Satan has so twisted things. Did you know the Bible says in the later days, that what is right will be wrong? That which is wrong will appear right? Folks you're living in that day and age. I'll give you the first example, I think most of you know. A woman burns her thighs with hot coffee while holding it in her lap while driving, sues the restaurant for millions and wins. Now, this is almost normal. We're like, is that wrong? Let me just share something. A woman is putting coffee between her thighs where it shouldn't be, which is boiling hot, which she knows, while she drives – which she shouldn't and when an accident happens obviously it will; she blames the people who made the hot coffee, which she knew was gonna be hot, where she put between her thighs, where she shouldn't of, to drive when she shouldn't have. And blames the people who did their original job, which is to make the coffee hot. Isn't that what hot coffee is? And then she sues them and she wins millions for what they did, which was right and she doesn't pay at all for she has done wrong. Now, would you say that this is correct thinking? No, this is twisted. Now, I'm gonna tell you there is a pattern of behavior in or which is what frivolous are all about; but there's a pattern of behavior in our culture, which is sue, sue, sue no matter what; simply because we may get something out of it. Because it's a take, take generation. You smoke three packs of cigarettes a day for forty years; you die of lung cancer and the family blames the tobacco company. That is not really correct. No, in other words, is tobacco wrong? Yes. Are they greedy companies? Yes. That's why they're in the business. Did you stick the cigarette in your mouth or did they drive down from Virginia somewhere, come to your house, hold you down and stick that baby in your mouth fourteen times a day. This is an accountability, responsibility issue, but we almost think it's normal that these things happen. Your daughter gets pregnant by the football captain, you blame the school for poor sex education. Your neighbor crashes into a tree while driving home drunk. We blame the bartenders. You know, if your cousin gets AIDS because the needle he used to shoot up

his heroin was dirty- we blame the government for not providing clean ones. You know, we, think this thing through. A friend is shot by a deranged madman we blame the gun manufacturer. Somebody is stabbed by a knife so we blame the knife manufacturer. You know, you run into a door, you knock yourself out-you sue the door company. Hey! The wall on either side should have warned you. But we are actually at that point in society. I was talking to a woman last night who works for attorneys-this is not an attack on attorneys, we love you, in fact we're glad you're here, we hope you'll always stay with us because we'll probably need attorneys after this sermon. But, anyway, I want to let you know just as a disclaimer, tis ins not anti-lawyer. My brother is a lawyer, ok anyway. So, I thought I would throw the disclaimer in there anyway. It's like a warning on the side of the sermon packet. Anyway, but she was telling me how they ave just done a case and you may have heard about it where a guy bought a Winnebago, brand new Winnebago. He is on a trip going seventy miles an hour down the highway – true story, he hits cruise control, gets up onoutof his seat wlks to the back to the to the bathroom in his Winnebago. Well obviously that Winnebago's gonna eventuall go (sound effect) off th side of the road while he's in the toilet and sudeently, it's tumbling – its tumbling toilet and this thing crashes, doesn't kill him. He sues Winnegbago and sues the dealer who sold it to him because he somehow thought cruise control was an autopilot that would continue on the road automatically. And you know what? He won millions of dollars and got a new Winnebago. Now, are you beginning to see how the mind and the blame game twist society to the point of descrtruction? Because your culture will collapse inevitably. This frivolous lawsuit thing – the w oman and the child in the store; (it killed me when I read in on an email that somebody sent to me, it may have been my brother Christian who is an attorney) how a woman was in a clothing store, ok; her little one is running around out of control. And her little boy, he's running around out of control. Well, she's walking around, well she comes around one of the racks of clothes and falls over her son-who's running out of control. Runs right into mom, makes her fall. She falls, she hurts her elbow and sprains her wrist and everything else. She sues the store she sues the

store for her injury, which come from falling over her own out of control child and she won the lawsuit. Now, I want ya'll to just hear this. You know what this is, this is the blame game. When Israel came to the point they blames everybody else but wouldn't accept responsibility for their sin; when they blamed God and cursed God, he finally says, I've had it. That's sit. And as a culture, we as born again Christians must take responsibility. In fact we have the responsibility to share the gospel with Jesus Christ. We have the responsibility to change the world around us. And what has happened, instead, everything around us has been replaced by three mentalities. Would you fill in number one, it's called the Rightness mentality. I demand my rights! Now, do we have rights as Americans. Amen. But we also have responsibilities. Do I have the rights a believer to pray, absolutely. But I also have a responsibility as a believer to pray. Do I have a right to say I'm a Christian, publicly? Amen. But now listen carefully, but I have the responsibility to act like a Christian, while I'm publicizing I'm a Christian because I'm sure the Lord a few times in our lives was wishing we weren't telling people we were Christians because of the way we were acting. Amen. Now, come on, let's just be honest about this. Rights are a wonderful that we should actually translate as privileges. Because not everyone in the world has those rights. Those are rights people have battled for years for us to achieve and to have today. But they are gifts from God, from those who have come before. Our greatest ability folks, is not sewing or mechanics or surfing or channel surfing or anything else. Your greatest ability is responsibility. The word responsibility means the ability to respond to the world around you in a way that Christ would. Responsibility. That you can ably respond to a situation that comes into your life. And unfortunately we have a dysfunctional society. Churchill said, "Responsibility is the price of greatness." Responsibility, can you say the word one more time – "responsibility." I don't know if ya'll opened the Express News yesterday, but I was having lunch, getting my message prepared for last night; just sitting there making some extra notes. There on the front of the Express News, you may have read this absolutely devastating, heartbreaking story about a father and his precious two children who were driving down

the street and one little boy – they were on bicycles; and the little boy was hit. Did ya'll read this? By a car which sped off, wouldn't accept responsibility. The dad and his other little eight year old boy ran over to see what had happened to his nine year old son and as they were there trying to help the nine year old up, a truck came over the hill and hit both of them and killed them both. And what did the truck do? It sped off. Fifty years ago I was talking to a fellow who has done research; he said fifty years ago, 99% of the time, whenever a serious accident occurred people immediately fessed up to it. They admitted, they stayed on the scene whatever. He says now the majority of the time people hit and they run. In other words, ladies and gentlemen whatever a man is in his heart so is it. Whatever a culture is in its heart so are we. And if we have this attitude of rights and I don't have to be responsible for anything. Its not my fault. We don't accept responsibility, what happens is a culture in collision with its future. And that's what we are seeing here. Both vehicles took off, after both vehicles had injured and killed these children. We don't want to be responsible. The other day I was reading John Leo in the U.S. World and News, he said, "We have criminal rights, computer rights, animal rights, victim rights, abortion rights, housing rights, privacy rights, the right to know the sex of the fetus so we can abort it, the right to die, the right to not get treatment for people who are mental patients so that we don't have to give them treatment cause they have the right to wonder the streets without any kind of treatment. Everything has come upside down. Everything is a right, the right to beat up the right to kill, whatever the right is, you notice how the word right-now there are issues which are genuine issues- listen carefully; in society which we must as a society protect, no two ways about it; but what has happened is with the word rights, all people want to do to justify their sins is drag the word rights as a title over the issue; and suddenly we have all have to stand back and say, we shouldn't go against rights. There are real rights, enuine rights which we need to protect in society. But be careful because if people frame the word, under right, just like the word abortion – which is killing unborn children which have civil rights and have the right to liverty and the right to life and we drag that under the word choice We

suddenly want to stand back like we don't want to be anti-choice. You're not, they simply improperly twisted and framed the issue. As born again believers we need to learn and think carefully and clearly on these issues. Because otherwise, we're gonna be framed into non action.