

## 2.2 Blame Game part 2

### Transcription

You see, the responsibility we have is to share Jesus. It is to change the world around us. And if the world can frame things so that Christians becomes non-active, Satan has won his battle because we're going to war. Amen. We need to be willing to fight the good fight. In fact the Bible actually talks about a sense, that means sensitivity to responsibility. Would you read Eph 5:15, which is here under point #1. "Live life with a sense of responsibility, not as those who don't know the meaning of life, but as those who do." What's the meaning of life? To walk with God, to glorify him... For you as a born again believer, did you know we know the meaning of life? JESUS! AMEN! The meaning to life, the purpose of life is Christ & to share Christ and to live victoriously. Well, since we know the meaning to life, the Bible is saying we should have a sense of responsibility I like we have a sense of smell. It should just come naturally to be responsible to share Jesus. Responsible to protect your brother. Responsible to protect the innocent and needy and the helpless and the homeless. Responsible, a sense of responsibility should be one of our senses we got from God when we became born again. The question today, lets challenge ourselves, how sensitive are we to this responsibility? Dr. Dobson is all over the world. He preaches on family, pulling the family together. Pulling the family together, pulling the home together. Defending the rights of pre-born children. All kinds of things and when we are in Colorado, Maria and I and the family went to Colorado, they told us that that day that they had a bomb scare and had to empty the building out. This man, Godly man. And I remember at NRB they had interviewed Dr. Dobson and said to him, basically, why do you keep doing this work? And you know, it's threatening to your life and everyone else, why do you keep doing it? And in a single sentence, this is what he said: he said: If not me, WHO? If I don't accept responsibility to care for families, who? If a hundred people would stand up, well take your place, well do your work great. I'll take a vacation. Until that time comes, WHO? And today, I want to tell you, God is calling us and saying if not you, WHO? Who will share Christ if not you? Who will change the world if not you? Who will stand for the innocent if not you? Who will stand for the unborn if not you? Who will be willing to stand up with the mark of Jesus Christ and say, so it should not be but this is what it should be. If not us, who? Amen. We are called as believers to be responsible in a world of irresponsibility. And it's a wonderful thing too; there are tremendous blessings in it. But we keep passing the buck. It reminds me of the band director. He was a very rude band director and one day in band, the drummer wasn't doing very well, and so what he did was, he insulted the drummer by saying " Well, you know ladies and gentlemen, all you guys in the band, let me just tell you, when a real musician can play, we call him a musician. But if he can't play, we give him two sticks and call him a drummer!" But from

the back somebody yelled out – “Yea. And if they have even less talent, they take away one of his sticks and call him a CONDUCTOR!” (laughter) Everybody wants to pass the buck. Let me just tell you something; we as believers, when the Holy Spirit indwells us we now have a new sense of something; we as believers, when the Holy Spirit indwells us we now have a new sense of responsibility. Because, why were you and I made? Just think about it. Why do we exist? Just to consume? To just eat, drink and be merry to consume for a whole lifetime? To TAKE for a whole lifetime? No. it's not like God said, “We've got an excess of cheese, burgers and fries and comfortable houses, we need to make more humans to go and enjoy them. No. actually we are built for though, is to be responsible to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to care for others and to care for our Lord. And then find our joy in that. So as we are here today, let's not pass the buck. We are the ones who God has called to see the world change. #2. There is another mentality which is very dangerous it's called the “victim mentality”. It is not my fault as you saw the wonderful skit up her, which Tim wrote and acted in. It's not my fault how many times have we said that? How many times have our children said that? We walk into a room and we say, you may even say to them, “Hey kids could you helped do the dishes? They go. “We didn't make them dirty. It was brother and sister, I ate off the floor.” Whatever, they've always got this, “it's not my fault.” You know let's accept some responsibility. Let's be team players here. Unfortunately, Israel had this: It's not my fault thing and then they started even blaming God. Let's look at Deuteronomy Ch 1, altogether. “They also took some of the fruit of the land in their hands and brought it down to us. It is a good land, which the Lord of God is giving us. Nevertheless, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God is you complained in your tents and said, “Because the Lord hates us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us...” Would you circle the words “cause they killed me still because the Lord hates us”. Kids come to you, “ I want to eat this big bag of candy” “No, honey, it's ten 0 clock at night. First of all your teeth would rot out of your head while you are sleeping.” Second of all, it'll make you so hyper you can't sleep. Sweetie, you have to go to bed now. It's time to go to bed. You have school tomorrow and you can't eat the bag of candy now, but I'll let you have some tomorrow. You just hate me, don't you?” Have you ever seen these moments, like, what?!! What does hate have to do with this? Because I didn't get my way. And the translation is, if I don't get my way then you hate me. No, actually I didn't give your way because I love you. You're cuter with teeth. Am I right? I mean that's true, you're cuter with teeth, that's why I don't want to be like tossing and turning all night long. Because you'll get hyper with sugar. No, it's because I love you. And they say, you know, God brought us...Yeah, that's right. God took you out of slavery, being tortured and beaten; being confined to your homes; being denied access to your God. He opens the Red Sea for you; he delivers you from pestilence and everything else to the enemy so that you can be delivered. He brings you with the Shekinah Glory leading your way. He feeds you from heaven because He hates you.

You see how the spoiled mentality and the blame game comes to the point where we play victim for so long, we start pointing the finger not only at the wrong people but at God. Spooky thing to do. The word blame is spelled "B lame and that's what it is. We're being lame. Just remember that, we're being lame when we're always blaming. Interesting, recently an FBI agent embezzled – true story; embezzled two thousand dollars from the government. Now listen to this, he embezzles \$2,000 dollars from the government, goes to Atlantic City, gambles in one day the two thousand dollars away. The Government finds out, is of course going to arrest him for stealing as well as fire him from the job. He gets fired, but what happens is he wins reinstatement after the court ruled that his affinity for gambling with other peoples' money is a handicap and thus as a handicap is protected under federal law. Now, I want to tell you what the real danger in this is. Those who are genuinely handicapped, after awhile, their voice isn't going to be heard because the word "handicap" is going to be used on everything. Hey, I've got a handicap, you know. I just, you know don't like to follow the speed limit; it's called not wanting to follow the speed limit handicap. Ok, then we'll go ahead and give you a hundred thousand dollar settlement. Hey, that's ok, that beats a ticket. Are you all following what's happening? When we have a culture of blame, after a while everyone is the victim and no one is responsible. Fired for consistently showing up late at work a former school district employees sues his former employer, (he's always late to work) arguing he is a victim of what his employer calls, chronic lateness syndrome. I could have used that years ago man. Ok. In Framington, Massachusetts, a young man steals a car from a parking lot and gets killed while driving the stolen car. His family then sues the proprietor of the parking lot for failing to take steps to prevent such thefts. In other words, it's your fault that I stole the car. Are ya'll beginning to see, in the latter days, that which is right will appear wrong and that which is wrong will appear right? We have become a culture where we don't even think straight. A man, who by his own admission, has exposed himself between 10,000 and 20,000 times publicly; He's been convicted of flashing on more than thirty occasions, He was turned down for a job as park attendant around children in Dade County, Wisconsin because of his arrest record. Now, so far this sounds like, this is sane; the guys been arrested thirty times for exposing himself, he's going to be around children, he admits doing this like twenty thousand times, so we don't give him a job in the park. Now, wouldn't ya'll say so far this is like sane? Is like logical? Ok. But he sues on the grounds that he never exposed himself technically in a park, only libraries and laundry mats. Therefore, the Wisconsin employment officials, ever accommodating to the expansion of human rights agreed to make an initial determination of probable cause that the flasher was a victim of illegal job discrimination. See, what happens inevitably is who are genuinely crying wolf because there is really wolf; after awhile nobody's is going to believe any of it. You know why? Because, everybody has taken these words and these titles, misappropriated them to excuse themselves from their responsibility. And eventually, the culture will collapse

because everyone is using this. You know, there are a lot of reasons. Why should I live a responsible life as a believer? I think the Word of God shows us. Because God is watching us. Look at Hebrews 4:13; would you read this with me? It's under number 2. "Nothing in all the world can be hidden from God. Everything is open before him and to him we must explain the way we have lived. Romans 4:12: "And each of us will give a personal account to God" Would you say the word personal account again. Personal account; those words are very important. When you get to heaven and the Lord says, "Why did you commit these sins?" Why did you omit these actions? And you're like, "Well, Lord it was his fault." You know what the Lord's going to say, put that hand down, there is no finger pointing in heaven. What you did, Peter Spencer, with your life, Peter Spencer, is your responsibility. Now, is it true that we have past issues? Yes. Is it true that people have been unfair to us? Is it true that even in our childhoods, you know there are many of you here that have had dilemmas from your childhood that absolutely affected your lives – absolutely. And God is highly sensitive to those issues. But I'm going to tell you something, if you live your entire life as a victim instead of a victor in Jesus Christ, you will never grow in grace and knowledge. You will never change for the better; you will never become a disciple of Jesus Christ because you spent your entire time making excuses for your continued sin. And God says; guess what, when you're born again by the grace of God and by the power of God and the Spirit of God within you – you can change! You can change not only the world around you, but the world within you by the power of God. And I'm going to tell you something, if you use your entire life playing victim that means you're really using that as an escape hatch to not play responsible Christian. Discipleship takes discipline. What do you think that word discipline means? It means discipling out of old habits into new ones. And yes, all of us have dilemmas in our lives we have to overcome. But that's exactly what faith is about. Being disciplined by Christ into new habits; not making excuses. Come on how many times have you made an excuse? Time to go for a walk, can't find my shoes. "Well, honey, they're in the closet." I can't find the closet. Ok honey come on come on. You know what my knees when I bend down, my knees hurt. Come on honey, it's just because it's early in the morning your knees hurt. Yeah but my knees... You're looking for excuses. Ah, it's really cold outside. Honey it's 70 degrees. That's cold compared to last summer. Ok, honey.. I mean don't we kind of do this? The purpose of exercise, it's a discipline to change our health. And if we always have an excuse not to go for that walk and not to go to the gym, we get worse. It's not a question of can we find excuses to not do what's right. We can always find excuses. But will God listen to them when we get to heaven? No. No. It's a point-free zone. It's a finger pointing free zone. That's a reality. God is watching us. The other day I read a note about a young man who went to a human resources department straight out of college. And he goes to Human Resources and they say, "Well young man, what do you expect to start with pay wise?" He goes, I expect to start with, let's say, oh \$250,000. They said, "Well, listen. What

about also five weeks vacation. We have fourteen paid holidays, full medical care; dental; company matching retirement fund of 50%. In fact the company car we lease, and let's say yours would be a red Corvette. And the young man goes, Wow! Are you kidding? And they said, Yeah, but you started it. Reality, reality. Yes times are tough, life is tough, but God expects us to grow. That's the reality. One day he will take a look at what did you do with what you had? You can't say, but my neighbor had more. Then your neighbor was more responsible. But what did you do with what you had? Your talent, your time, your skills, your finances. I mean, you know God is saying you are responsible. Like the other day I went to a bookstore and I asked the salesman, Hey where's the self-help section? She wouldn't show me, she said it defeats the purpose. Anyway, ok, number three; number three – some of you will get that driving home. Ah, ah. You'll be like that Winnebago; Woah! Ok, anyway, number three. This is the next mentality which is destructive to the body of Christ' it is called the entitlement mentality. It is a cultural phenomenon. Human beings get to the point of entitlement, "I deserve it" Society owes it to me. You owe it to me. And I'm going to tell you what this is. The reason this is sin is because it is a "taking" mentality. It shows a no attitude of gratitude. Has everybody been wronged in one way or another. Absolutely. Does that give excuse for us to sin? Absolutely not. When we come to the entitlement mentality, what we're saying is, you owe me, you owe me, everybody owes me. And we live in such a world of you owe me, guess what we end up doing? We freeze in our Christian walk from doing and blessing others to always. Expecting to get from others. Did you know that this is the antithesis of Christianity? The entitlement mentality is the antithesis of Christianity. It is you owe me therefore, give to me. Versus the Christian point of view, world view is: I owe everything to God. By grace I am saved through faith. It is a work of God. I've done nothing for it. He's been merciful. I should be serving and glorifying him. We're supposed to be acting by blessing, but instead the entitlement mentality says, no everybody bless me, you owe it to me. I remember my dad, who was a really blunt preacher. And I remember him saying, "You know you say God owes you this and God owes you that. I'll tell you what God owes you. God owes you the lake of fire! That's what God owes you! And like you're in church. Ok, ok, ok, you know. What do we really deserve? What does God really owe us? What have we really done that makes God owe us something? Let's think about it folks. Entitlement, attitude of you owe me. Come on, God created us. Gave us the Garden of Eden. We blew it. He gave us sacrifices to cover it – we blew it. Gave us new life – we keep blowing it. What exactly do we owe him again? We owe him our lives, that's what we owe him. Because he came down sinless. He got beaten, tortured, persecuted; took our pain and suffering for eternity upon himself – though sinless. Hung on the cross – though sinless; defeated death for us – though sinless. What exactly is it again that we owe him? Hmmm, keep missing it. But you see, it's a cultural phenomenon that we sit back and say, "Yeah, everybody owes me. Everybody owes. God owes me. You know what God really owes us – is the

judgment. Though by grace we're saved through faith, but not of ourselves. It is a gift of God. It is not of any work you and I have done. So, we should wake up in the morning with an attitude of gratitude. We should be like Lazarus, man, coming out of the tomb. He's like, "Woe, second time around! Cool! Remember that? He calls him forth. You know, Lazarus coming out like this. "Hey, I've been here before, but I was headed in the other direction. That's really cool! Don't you think every morning that Lazarus would open his eyes and say, "it's not a dream. Wow! I've got another day! Don't you think he bounded down to breakfast every day and said honey, thanks for those eggs? He celebrated every moment. Can you imagine? He had an attitude of gratitude. If you know had an attitude of gratitude; your day would be joyful no matter what. But if you wake up with an attitude of entitlement every day; you're going to be miserable every day, because it is never enough. Let me tell you, you want to have victory in your life; feel joy and peace in your life – alter your attitude to be one like Christ. One of joy, one of celebration. Have the attitude of gratitude. The second reason is I think which is not in your notes – why do we have to have this attitude that we are appreciative and attitude of gratitude; is because others are affected by our lives. We shouldn't be blaming. We shouldn't be just demanding rights but responsibility because others are affected by our lives. I remember Frank Sinatra singing "And I did it my way" – that old song remember? Sammy Davis Jr. "I got to me...remember him when he was doing that? I mean all of those songs way years back; they all seemed to be focused on me, me, me. This is space and my territory. Don't get into it. I get to do what I want to do. You know, it is my right! Ok, here we go – this is the best way to do it: I go out on an eight foot boat and go fishing one day with a bunch of guys. I go with three other guys there are four of us in the boat. So it's kind of two feet per person on the boat. We're in the boat and they're fishing along and I pull out this miniature drill – a little hand drill. And I go (drilling sound) and the other guys go "Woe, woe, woe! Spencer, what are you doing? "I'm just drilling a hole in my end of the boat, thank you" (drilling sounds) "No, no wait! You can't do that! It's my space! I can do (singing) what I want to! I can do what I want to say what I want. This is my space. It's not hurting anybody else! Yeah, it is Spencer. They're going to tackle me in the boat. Why? Because what I do does affect them. Mom and Dad, what you do does affect your children. "I'll do what I want to do. Nobody has the right to tell me what to do. It affects people around you. When your child is on drugs – addicted to drugs; you think it doesn't affect the rest of the family? Dad, when you're not being a proper father and you're living a life that is sinful, you think it doesn't affect your family? Come on folks! This whole concept of I got to be me, I'm going to be me and it doesn't affect anybody else and mind your own business. This is my space. No it's not, it's our space and we're all affected by it. And as born again believers, God says, man you are supposed to be affecting the space of others by how you treat your own space – how you live your own life. It is extremely important. What Adam and Eve did affected the rest of us. You can't sin alone. The third reason I found within

this concept of entitlement: what was a problem with that is – we need to be responsible because God rewards it folks. God actually rewards being responsible. He'll bless your life if you act responsibly. You're responsible to witness, he'll bless you. You're responsible with your finances, he'll bless you. You're responsible with your time; he'll bless you if you use it properly. Be encouraged. This is an encouraging point. It's a positive point. He blesses those who are responsible. I'm going to give you a little homework; I think you'd like to do this. I would encourage you. You know where the book of Proverbs is? Kind of right toward the middle to the right a little. Ok, open up the Bible, unless you have a thousand footnotes in it then it throws that whole thing in the middle to the right slightly off. But the book of Proverbs has thirty-one chapters. There's either 28, 30 or 31 days in a month. I would encourage you in one month to read through Proverbs. Did you know that it has the word "fool" in there seventy times? "Fool" A man is a fool that says there is no God. That doesn't mean you have a lack of IQ or lack of an education or you're just dense or something. You know what the word fool actually means, is irresponsible in his belief. So he becomes irresponsible in his actions. You want to become a responsible person? If you read the book of Proverbs in one month, the entire book; one chapter a day is all it takes. You would actually learn the seventy ways to become a highly responsible Christian that would be blessed by God. You want to know how to be blessing your life – read the book of Proverbs. Now, do it twelve times over a year. I'll guarantee you'll be a person of brilliant excellence in the disciple of Christ. Because you will find what it is like to be responsible. And when you're responsible as a Christian, God pours blessing upon your life. I didn't have time, that's a separate study. I didn't have time to go into all those seventy points obviously, but once again, when you see the word "fool" just make sure you're not doing what the word "fool" says. You'll be doing fine. In fact you can see down here. The things we need to do to make sure we bless the Lord, first of all. Get away from the blame game. Get back active into the game. Do good and serve God. That's the little point under number three. Do good and serve God. Next Dump the world, consume the Word. Say that with me: "dump the world, consume the Word." We need to get back into consuming the Word. Read Proverbs 15 with me: "A wise person is hungry for truth while the fool feeds on trash. Ah! Read that with me one more time. "A wise person is hungry for the truth while the fool feeds on trash." Man, if there ever has been a huge amount of garbage available for consumption it is today. Amen. The Bible says, you want to be responsible, get into the Word more and turn off the boob tube more and turn off the junk. And you know the Enquirer; you can go without the Enquirer for a week. Ok. I know it's important to know you know what some movie star is doing. Whether Brad's really still in love with her or not, but you know what, maybe, feed on the Word. That says you are responsible. And the third thing is, admit I am wrong put my finger to work not pointing. Read that with me: "admit I'm wrong, put my finger to work not pointing. Don't point your finger; get your fingers busy doing God's work. Start caring for others. You know

what will happen? You'll get out of the blame game and start taking on the responsibility of being a believer. As it says in Hosea 4:4 don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame. You know, I think this will be healthy. This is good for all of us just in this culture. Each one of us had been playing the blame game. I think of the woman who went to the airport. She was in between flights. She had about an hour and a half. I don't eat sugar, I don't eat cookies anymore, but the people, and you know when I was younger, boy, when they started putting up these cookie shops, "Mrs.--" whatever. Man, you go in there and you get a cookie, like this big. A chocolate chip cookie with extra nuts and extra chocolate. And they weigh like four pounds. It costs like nine bucks for a cookie. You know what I'm talking about? Have you ever done those? There's a cookie shop in this airport. So she had an hour and a half to kill, so she goes into this shop, she buys a newspaper. She thinks, I'm just going to buy a newspaper; I'm going to sit back and enjoy my newspaper. I'll buy some cookies. Goes up and picks up her cookies. They put it in a little cellophane bag. They hand it to her and she goes over and sits at this little table, this little round table. Sits back, opens the newspaper and just starts enjoying it. And suddenly she hears this rustle of cellophane. She pushes her newspaper aside and here this guy's got his hand in her little bag of cookies on the table and he's pulling one out. She looks at him like what do you think you are doing? He kind of looks at her and smiles and she looks at him like "You arrogant jerk." So she reaches forward, pushes the bag, turns it towards herself, gets a cookie, goes like this, takes a bit and gets back to her newspaper. Two minutes later she hears it again (crunching sounds) She pushes the newspaper down, now really irritated and here's the guy's got his fingers in there. In fact, he's so gross; he's kind of feeling each one of the cookies and looking at them. And then he breaks a piece off one of them. Gross! Breaks a piece off and he starts eating it. She reaches across grabs the bag sticks her hand and pulls the rest of the cookies out and goes like this. Like you know, you should have asked permission. At least ask before you handle my cookies. She gets back behind her newspaper and eats her cookies. Just in a rage for the next twenty minutes. Thinking, what a jerk. She gets up and closes the newspaper and before she walks out she looks at him like, "psycho." You know. Walks over and walks down the hall; goes up to the counter, gate number 7. She goes in her bag for her tickets and there she finds her bag of cookies. And she realizes uh oh. There's some guy in the airport telling his business associates about this weirdo woman who's eaten all of his cookies. Now, the reason I tell you that in closing is because that really kind of synopsisizes where I'm coming from in this study. While she was mad and pointing her finger in blame, she was all along, without knowing it experiencing grace. Did you hear that? The entire time she was pointing her finger in blame, she was in reality experiencing grace. And as we sit in our arrogant manner and keep pointing the finger and blame how everybody else is at fault; do you realize we're living in the midst of grace. And while we're saying we deserve and I have the right and I'm entitled to: God is like, why are you being so cocky.

You're living in the midst of grace. And you know what, our egos and our pride and our judgmental spirits can be defaulted once we remember who really owes who what. We owe him honor, we owe him allegiances, we owe him praise. He doesn't really owe us anything but He gave it all. We need a paradigm shift in the blame game. We need to make it a praise game. We need to have an attitude of gratitude toward our God. I'm going to tell you it will make your life a celebration if you drop the blame game. You know, instead of saying we deserve; realize we deserve punishment for our sins. By God's grace we won't have to live through that eternally. But not that we're a victim but that we're a victory in Jesus Christ. Not so much our rights but our responsibilities before our God. It will alter our lives and we need to ask the Lord, "Grow us up Lord." And when it comes to responsibilities, folks, we have the responsibilities to witness to our neighbors. We have a responsibility to serve. Because you know why, when we don't serve there's somebody else gives double and carries a double load. We're supposed to be loving others. When we don't responsibly love others, others are being harmed. I think we need to start thinking less on rights, which we have the privilege – many are genuine rights; but instead of demanding everything as a right that everybody owes us. Let's start accepting responsibility and start praising God for what he has already done and given to us. Amen. Let's close in prayer. Father, in Jesus name, forgive us sometimes we do get a little arrogant. We act entitled with you, like Israel that complained and blamed their sin even on you. Forgive us Father.