

Get Freedom,
Give Freedom



The Search for Significance
and Beyond

Ch 7: The Blame Game

Self-condemnation and the
condemnation of others

Review: The Satanic Equation

My Self-Worth =

my performance + other's opinions of me

$$SW = MP + OO$$

Fear of punishment: Those who fail are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished.

Condemnation – What does it look like?

- Self-Condemnation
 - Name calling
 - Self-deprecating jokes or statements
 - Not allowing any room for error
- Condemnation of Others
 - Harsh (physical or verbal abuse)
 - Subtle (sarcastic or silent)

The Power of Words

Where does it come from?

- Our perception of success or failure as our basis for evaluating worth
- A conscious or unconscious need to assign blame
- We want to exonerate ourselves
- Someone has to pay or get what they deserve
- Need to prevent others' failure that threatens our worth

Why do we do it?

- Helps us feel better
- We feel superior (pride)
- Support those we depend on
- Denial

How should we respond to failure?

- With Christians
 - Affirm God's truth about them
 - Leads to love, forgiveness, and acceptance
 - Condemnation changes to compassion
- With unbelievers
 - Love, do good to, bless, pray for (Matt. 22: 27-28)
 - "There is nothing that anyone can do to me that can compare with my sin or rebellion that Christ has completely forgiven."

Errors to Avoid

- Not differentiating between sin and mistakes
 - Particularly vulnerable relationships include: husband-wife, parent-child, or employer-employee
- Believing we are godly agents of condemnation
 - Judgment is God's responsibility, not man's
- Not realizing that failing doesn't make us failures
 - It can actually be helpful to move us toward greater maturity in Christ

Our view of God

- When you fail or sin, how do you see God?
- Does this drive you to or away from Him?
- Hebrews 4:14-16

Fear of Punishment/ Punishing Others Test

page 82 or handout

Effects of Fear of Punishment

- Self-Induced Punishment
- Bitterness
- Passivity
- Punishment of Others
- Fears of All Sorts

Which do you identify with and why?

Small Group Discussion Time

Next Steps

- Keep praying for the Spirit's work in your heart and mind
- Read Chapter 8 and work through Step 8
- Next meeting:
 - February 11th