



## Side by Side

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The Blame Game  
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It is easier to blame someone than to take responsibility for our lives. When we do not get that job, we blame it on the color of our skin. When we fail to be admitted to the university, we blame it on the discriminating admission policy of the university. When we do not get our way, we blame it on “racism.”

There is nothing new in the “blame” game. It happened a long time ago in the Garden of Eden.

- Adam blamed God. He said to God, “*The woman you put here with me...*” (Gen. 3:12). Adam actually blamed God for putting Eve “there” with him! If she were not there, he would not have fallen. “God, it is your fault.”
- Adam blamed his wife. He said to God, “*The woman ...gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.*” (Gen. 3:12) “It is *her* fault. If she had not given the fruit to me, I wouldn’t have eaten it.” Hello, Adam. You were “with her” during the entire conversation between the serpent and the woman, and you didn’t stop it. Genesis 3:6 specifically mentioned that Adam was “with her.” Adam knew what was going on, but still he chose to blame his wife, instead of taking responsibility for his own action.
- The woman blamed the serpent. She said to God, “*The serpent deceived me, and I ate.*” At least she was better than Adam. She did not blame God. She did not say, “The serpent you put in the garden.” She did not blame

Adam either. "You are with me all the time, why didn't you stop me from talking to that snake?" She blamed the serpent instead.

The "blame" game continues today:

- It is your fault.
- It is racism.
- It is discrimination.
- I am the victim.
- It is not fair.

As followers of Christ, how do we respond to the "blame" game?

I would be lying to you if I say that I do not feel that I am discriminated against because of the color of my skin, or my accent. I do, and I can give you examples. But here is how I handle discrimination, racism, and unfairness:

1. Some forms of racism exist in every country and culture of the world, and you may have some good reasons to play the "race" card. However, recognize that God can use whatever racism or discrimination to put you in a place to accomplish His purpose. Some of us may be called to address the injustices in the world, and we thank God for that, but always remember that God's hand is at work in moving you and situating you in a place where He can maximize your giftedness and magnify His glory the most. He knows what is best for you.

Do I trust God with my interests even when I seem to be receiving an unfair settlement? Remember *that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose* (Rom. 8:28).

I am thankful that God used those acts of discrimination (whether real or perceived) to put me in a position where He can use me the most for His glory. He is the sovereign God who knows what is best for me.

2. Resolve not to play the "victim" or "race" card in order to become lackadaisical or to excuse yourself for doing the very best with the life God has given you.

Recently, I received an e-mail from a friend:

*Right now, I am finishing a book by Heather MacDonald that addresses the Diversity issue in our universities, and I find it unsettling because there is so*

*much intolerance with white and Asian college students better prepared for academia than blacks and Hispanics being admitted with lower SAT scores.*

I appreciated his concern for us, and I responded with the following e-mail (April 5, 2019):

*It is very unfortunate that the country practices discrimination against another racial group who works harder than the "victims." Those policies are the result of a kakistocracy that wraps itself in its own thick cocoon of elitism. They are blind to the lessons of history when such policies have failed miserably in many countries.*

*When we were growing up in Malaysia, the Malaysian government discriminated against us because we are Chinese. The government gave preferential treatment to the Malays by lowering the university admission requirement, lowering the passing grade in their exams, and forcing companies to hire them even though they may not have been qualified. After so many years of preferential treatment, many of these Malays are still waiting for more handouts. But we did not allow those acts of discrimination to degenerate into anger or disillusionment. Instead, we worked and studied harder, and we explored other options in order to excel. Like a fox against the lion, we cannot defend ourselves; however, we can learn to recognize the traps and survive through creative means.*

Those life lessons taught us to become more resourceful in finding creative and innovative (but legal) ways to adapt and excel. We become CRAP = Creative, Resourceful, Adaptable, Persistent. When one road is blocked, we learn to take another road to reach our destination. When we are given a lemon, we will learn to make lemonade and enjoy life anyway.

3. Resolve to take responsibility for your own life.

It is easier to blame others. It is much more difficult to take responsibility for your own life. Be responsible for your own life and take steps to achieve the mission God has for you.

When you constantly blame others for the ills you are suffering, you inevitably will immerse yourself in anger, resentment, dissatisfaction, and misery. Your friends will desert you, because they do not want to be blamed. Do yourself a favor – be kind to yourself. Take responsibility for your life. You will be much happier and healthier. *I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances* (Phil. 4:11).

When our children were young, they always said, "It is not fair." We taught them God never promised that life would be fair (in our perspective). Life will be

unfair. There will be discrimination, racism, unfairness, etc. But resolve not to play the “victim” or the “race” card or blame others. God loves you, and He will use those circumstances to mold you into a vessel fit for His use. He will orchestrate events in your life to conform you to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29, Gal. 4:19). He will put you in a place where He can use you for His glory. Trust Him. Walk with Him. He knows what is best for you despite the odds against you.

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