

Blame – Pt 1 Christ our example

This is our first study on the word “blame”. In this teaching we establish three points– (i) Live blameless, (ii) let us bear the blame and (iii) apportion blame brethren that walk contrary to the gospel.

It is from our search of the scripture that we establish our three points–

1. Live blameless

“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Phil.2: 15). See also 1Tim 5:7 & 2Pet 3:14

How?

i) “Do all things without murmurings and disputing” (Phil.2:14).

ii) “Abstain from all appearance of evil. [23] And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1Thes.5: 22, 23).

2. Let us bear the blame, the fault, and so take the wrong.

“I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever” (Gen.43: 9).

3. Let us apportion blame to brethren who walk contrary to the gospel

“But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew...fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel...” (Gal 2: 11–14)

Illustration

For a Jew there is a righteousness in the law– Rom10: 4 “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.), and a person could be blameless in the law– Phil.3: 6– “Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless”.

Questions of the scriptures

i) why are Christians called to be blameless?, and ii) what is better than being blameless in the law?

Answers from the scriptures

i) We are called to be blameless– to give no appearance of evil. Example– 1 Cor.8: 7–12– where we sin against Christ when we eat meat offered to an idol (being allowed to if we give thanks) but our weak brother’s conscience is defiled when he is emboldened to eat. In doing so we sin against Christ and give an appearance of evil.
ii) Knowledge of Christ is better than being blameless in the law – as Paul wrote and experienced, when he – “suffered the loss of all things...count them but dung, that I may win Christ” (Phil.3: 8).

Let us be more like our Saviour who did no sin, bear our sins on Himself, and rebuked the Pharisees their sin.

May we live blamelessly, bear the blame when appropriate, and rebuke and so apportion blame when brethren walk contrary to the gospel. Amen!