



Blame

‘Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.’

Romans 8:1-3 NIV



It’s easy to blame yourself as a mother when your children make choices that you would prefer they didn’t or when their behaviour leaves you feeling hurt inside. ‘I must have been a bad mother, where did I go wrong? What else could I have done? I should have given him/her more time, more discipline, more love.’ These are all questions and statements I have heard mothers, including myself, blame and chastise themselves with over their children’s choices

and behaviour. It’s easy to blame ourselves as mothers for our children’s conduct. All any mother can ever do is her best with what she knows and with the resources available to her at the time. Once our children become adults they are free to make their own choices, preferences and behave in the way they desire to, whether we condone those behaviours or not. All we can do as mothers is hope we have installed solid foundations in our children that will stand them in good stead when the walls begin to crumble. And when they do we need to be as forgiving and welcoming as the father of the prodigal son.

That’s not to say our children should avoid all responsibility for their actions and deeds. The best thing we can help them with is to face up to their responsibilities. They need to be able to face the consequences of their behaviour/actions squarely in the face, avoidance is not an option. Consequences of poor choices and behaviour cannot be evaded and dodged around forever if our children are to grow into mature, responsible, stable people. Some people don’t reach this stage until much later in life but they still need to face up to the (possible) wreckage that has ensued in their own lives (as well as others) as a consequence of their conduct. Once the responsibility is accepted and owned then the healing can begin.

Blame however, is never helpful it is actually the opposite; obstructive. We live in a culture today where ‘blame’ has become the accepted norm. People look for someone or something to blame. Fear of blame or being blamed can then turn into excuses, which in turn can lead to indifference. Owning the responsibility of poor behaviour or wrong-doing, on the other-hand, has a completely different feel to it. It implies the person is willing to accept the consequences of their actions with a heart that is genuinely remorseful and repentant. Whether the apology is accepted or not, has no relevance to the accused. Once the accused has accepted responsibility, repented and faced the consequences; he is forgiven and set free.

To keep condemning either yourself, or another, will become destructive. Jesus never blamed anyone, he taught people to take responsibility; Peter had to face up to who he was and realise the consequences of his superficiality in denying his Lord. But Jesus never blamed anyone. Neither should we keep blaming ourselves; the cross has set us free from condemnation. We need to live our lives as responsible, forgiven adults.

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