

# FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

## Transfer of blame and guilt follows infidelity

**QUESTION:** My wife tried to make me feel guilty when she left. She angrily blamed me for our divorce despite my desperate attempts to hold things together. I'm not a perfect man, but I loved her and would never have left. But in her mind, I failed so miserably as a husband that she was forced to run around with her boss! Can you believe that? She blamed me for her adultery!



Dr. Dobson

**DR. DOBSON:** Your wife is trying to transfer her guilt to you. Nearly every spouse does something similar when engaging in infidelity. Such people must find a way to deal with the condemnation of their own consciences. They have torn up a home, rejected their spouses, wounded their children and jeopardized their futures. Such outrageous behavior demands an explanation of some sort. Thus, they construct a vigorous defense against moral condemnation, usually by shifting blame to the spouse.

Ask any victim of an affair; he or she has probably heard a version of the following rationalizations designed to handle four specific sources of guilt:

(1) Marital guilt. "I know that what I'm doing is difficult for you now, but someday you will understand that it's for the best. I never really loved you even when we were young. In fact, we should never have gotten married in the first place. Furthermore, this divorce is really your fault. You drove me to it by ..." (insert grievances here, such as frigidity, in-law problems, nagging, overwork, or all the foregoing).

This message has a transparent purpose. The first sentence marvelously purifies the motives of the unfaithful spouse. It says, in effect, "I'm really doing this for your own good."

The second sentence is also a beauty. It is designed to serve as an "annulment" to the marriage instead of a cruel abandonment of a loved one. By saying that they should have never gotten married, their union becomes an unfortunate mistake rather than a relationship that is ordained and cemented. Then by putting the remaining responsibility on the other party, the blame is successfully transferred from the guilty to the innocent. So much for wedding vows. Now let's deal with the children.

(2) Parental guilt. "This will be hard on the kids for a while, but they'll be better off in the long run. It certainly isn't healthy for them to see us

fight and argue like we've been doing. Besides, I will spend just as much time with them after things settle down as I do now."

Zap! Zap! Guilt over the children is also tucked away. Would you believe that Dad's escapade with another woman or Mom's flight with Don Juan is actually a constructive thing? Pay no heed to the conclusions the children draw about why Mommy or Daddy left, and why he or she doesn't love them anymore, and why the divorce may have been their fault, and why life is so painful and scary. Try to ignore the fact that everything stable has just come unstitched in the lives of some very impressionable and sensitive little people. Guilt over the children can be the toughest to rationalize, but, fortunately, hundreds of books and tapes are available today that will help you silence your writhing conscience.

(3) Social guilt. "I'm sure our friends won't understand at first, and I can hardly wait to hear what your mother will have to say. But it's like I told the pastor last week, our divorce is really no one's fault. We've just outgrown each other."

If a woman is speaking, she may say: "Besides, I am entitled to do what's best for me once in a while. I've given my entire life to everyone else; now it's time for me to think of myself. Anyway, what's right for me will prove best for you and the children, too."

This line of reasoning is only one of many rationalizations by which selfishness can be purified and made to appear altruistic. Three down and one to go.

(4) Divine guilt. "I've prayed about this decision and am now certain that God approves of what I've chosen to do."

There it is in living color — the ultimate rationalization. If God has taken the matter under advisement and judged the divorce to be in the interest of everyone, who can argue that point further? The conversation is over. Guilt is expunged. Self-respect is restored. Having settled the "big four," every moral and spiritual obstacle is removed. The stage is set for divorce.

*Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.focuf.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997, James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.*

By Pastor Dan Butcher

Easter is now over. We as Christians rally each year to bare witness of our faith in Jesus Christ. Movies are made, extra church services are arranged, and churches are filled with record setting attendances. Easter is a wonderful time of year. Would it not be grand if someday Jesus would return and his return would be on Easter? I have heard many sarcastic remarks offered by some regarding the great crowds on Easter Sunday. Christians wondering out loud why fellow Christians do not bother to attend church on a more regular basis, but only two or three times a year.

I have chosen to have a different take on that. I am simply glad they are there. If you attend a local church and a word spoken or a song sung touched your heart, then I am going to ask you to respond to God's call. He is talking to you. It

is not your emotions of the season making you feel this way. It is God calling to you. Don't be satisfied at being a spectator in the Kingdom of God. Get involved. Support the church of your choice. Sing in the choir, be bold - go on a mission trip, offer a meditation or teach a Sunday school class. Most of all, be there and be a part of the family of God. That church needs you and believe it or not you need that church.

It reminds me of a story in the Bible. Two men were leaving Jerusalem after the events of Holy week. They were on the road back home to Emmaus. They were discussing the crucifixion and resurrection of the Christ. A man whom they did not recognize came along beside them. The men spoke together the entire route. The two men invited the stranger to eat with them upon arriving home. The stranger touched their hearts with his explanation of Holy week and the life of Christ. When the men

realized this was not a stranger, but Jesus who was with them, He disappeared.

My point is I am asking you to realize that we are all on a road home. Jesus walks beside us daily and desires to speak to us through the voice of the Holy Spirit. Please listen to this voice. Grow in the Grace of God. Desire the fellowship and learning provided by fellow Christians. Get involved in your local church and make a dif-

ference. We are all on the road and recognize Jesus.

Dan Butcher is pastor at Crossroads Community Christian Church.

### Pray for our country

...and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it... Luke 2:43 Pd. Adv.

# Breaking the 'DaVinci Code'

Comet staff report

Next month, many will flock to theaters to see the movie version of Dan Brown's runaway bestseller, "The DaVinci Code." This will bring with it a whole new flurry of debate about Jesus.

Brown's novel — based, he insists, on fact — makes some astounding attacks against Christianity. It probes the deepest issues of the Christian faith. The book has been translated into over 40 languages and has sold over 40 million copies. It raises serious questions about who Jesus is, the origin of the Bible and the truths of Christianity.

During the entire month of May at the Delphi Christian Church, Andrew Paris will be preaching a series of sermons entitled "Breaking the DaVinci Code." Designed to answer the questions everyone is

asking, the series will unlock the secrets of the "DaVinci Code" and give solid biblical answers.

Join him at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in May to sort through the myths and to learn the truth and how to respond.

The Delphi Christian Church is located at 315 E. Main St. For more information, call the church office at (765) 564-3560.

## Announcements

The ladies of the DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH will hold their annual Spring Banquet on May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Those attending should take a well-filled basket and table service. Sara Daly-Brosman will present the program.

**Public Concert**  
**Friday, April 28**  
**at the Flora**  
**Presbyterian Church**

**The**  
**Overtones**  
**will begin their**  
**concert at 7 P.M.**

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# DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School	SW=Sunday Worship
<b>AMERICAN UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL:</b> Vernon Pringley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.	<b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:</b> Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Louis Sandos. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
<b>AT THE WELL PRAYER OF FAITH CENTER, ROSSVILLE:</b> 16 Cason St., Michael Pierson Sr., pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Fri. Night Live worship service 7 p.m.	<b>FLORA FIRST BAPTIST:</b> 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
<b>BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST:</b> Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	<b>FLORA FIRST BRETHREN:</b> 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
<b>BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST:</b> 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	<b>FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora.</b> Pamela Ditson-McCall, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
<b>BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST:</b> 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Joe Hornick, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.	<b>FLORA GRACE BRETHREN:</b> 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
<b>BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN:</b> 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.	<b>FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:</b> 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
<b>BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST:</b> Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.	<b>FLORA UNITED METHODIST:</b> 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
<b>BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST:</b> Rev. Chuck Rockey, pastor. SS: 10:50 a.m., SW 9:30 a.m.	<b>FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST:</b> Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
<b>BURNETTVILLE FIRST BAPTIST:</b> Second & Main, Burnettville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.	<b>GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST:</b> 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Danny Jewell, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
<b>BURNETTVILLE CHRISTIAN:</b> Sixth & Washington, Burnettville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	<b>HICKORY GROVE CHURCH:</b> CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
<b>BURNETTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> First & Main, Burnettville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	<b>HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST:</b> Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
<b>BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN:</b> SS: 10:30 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.	<b>HISPANIC CHRISTIAN CENTER:</b> 108 W. Main, Delphi. Dimas Palacio, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW 12noon, Tue. & Wed. 7 p.m.
<b>CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY:</b> Will be meeting at the Delphi Middle School gym on Monroe Street. The worship service begins at 10:30 AM. All are welcome!	<b>IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD:</b> 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Keith Raderstorff, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
<b>CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST:</b> Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. Sun. Nite Praise 6:02 p.m.	<b>JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP:</b> CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.
<b>CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:</b> 4003 W 400S, Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.	<b>LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, interim pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
<b>COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST:</b> Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.	<b>LIVING STONE CHURCH:</b> Meets at the Freedom Center in Delphi. SS: 11 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m. contact (765) 589-3507
<b>COLBURN UNITED METHODIST:</b> Michael Ermil, pastor, SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.	<b>LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH:</b> East of Patton. Nord Zoolman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
<b>COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES:</b> 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.	<b>LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> CR 300 N, SE of Camden. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
<b>DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST:</b> 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Lowell Kibler, minister. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 6 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.	<b>MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST:</b> 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.
<b>CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN:</b> 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.	<b>OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN:</b> 11810 N & 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Don Arterburn. SW: 10 a.m.
<b>CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN:</b> Pastor Jim Long SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	<b>PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH:</b> Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
<b>DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN:</b> Highway 29 in Deer Creek. Rev. Cheryl Montgomery, interim pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:15 a.m.	<b>PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST:</b> John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m.
<b>DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH:</b> 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.	<b>PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:</b> 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
<b>DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD:</b> 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	<b>PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> Pastor. Howard Hendrickson SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
<b>DELPHI UNITED METHODIST:</b> Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Sheila Wilimitis, youth pastor.	<b>RADNOR CHURCH:</b> Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
<b>DELPHI WESLEYAN:</b> North Union Street, Delphi. Rich & Carol Schenck, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	<b>ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN:</b> Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
<b>EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST:</b> SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.	<b>ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN:</b> SW: 9:30 a.m.
<b>FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST:</b> SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.	<b>ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP:</b> 16 Cason St., S. Corporate Prayer 9:00 a.m., S. Fellowship 9:30 a.m., SW 10:00 a.m.
<b>FAITH LUTHERAN:</b> CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.	<b>ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:</b> 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Pastor, Bob Pfeifer. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
<b>FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH:</b> Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	<b>ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:</b> 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Rev. Gretchen Schneider SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
<b>FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH:</b> U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	<b>ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST:</b> Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
<b>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD:</b> US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 7pm	<b>SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST:</b> St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN:</b> Chad Hoesman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.	<b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC:</b> 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
<b>FIRST BAPTIST:</b> Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	<b>ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:</b> 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. Dale Larson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
	<b>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN:</b> Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR18 and SR75. Dale Larson, pastor. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship.
	<b>WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES:</b> meet at Burrows Fire Department, Greg & Michelle Britt, pastors. SW: 9 a.m. (574) 652-2280
	<b>YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST:</b> Dave Inskeep, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.