

BAD BLOOD

PART 4: Shaking the Dust Off

INTRODUCTION

The first step to finding peace in a relationship is to repent if you've done wrong or to forgive if you've been wronged. But no matter how badly you want peace, there are some relationships that may never be fully restored. What do you do to find peace *about* a relationship when you can't find peace *in* the relationship?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you learned a valuable lesson because of negative consequences. What might your life look like now if someone had helped you avoid those consequences?
2. Do you find it more challenging to give help to others or to receive help from others? How do you think that tendency has affected your relationships?
3. Read Galatians 6:1-5. Talk about a time when someone helped you carry a burden. How did that experience affect your relationship with that person? How did it affect your relationship with God?
4. *"When does my continual extension of assistance become irresponsible?"* Have you ever had to wrestle with this question in a relationship? If so, what happened?
5. Is there an area of your life in which you are asking someone to help you carry your burden even though you aren't carrying your own load? If so, what do you need to do to begin to carry your own load?
6. Is there a "bad blood" relationship in your life in which reconciliation seems impossible? If so, what can you do to begin to set healthy boundaries in that relationship? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

God holds us responsible for helping to carry others' burdens. He doesn't hold us responsible for carrying others' loads. When we carry another person's load, we rob that person of experiencing the outcomes of his or her decisions. Set boundaries in your relationships. Be accountable to someone.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2