

## **The Blame Game**

**Plaque in the store:**

**MY WIFE SAYS I DON'T LISTEN TO HER  
At least I think that's what she said.**

**Isn't it crazy how easy we can fall into the pit of the "Blame Game?"**

**A Friend of mine in Washington shared this story:**

**"My wife had given me an assignment to take the six-month puppy to be neutered (castrated – ouch!).**

**She went out of town so I figured I could handle this task fine. Feeling for the puppy, who was going to undergo the transformational surgery in the morning, I took him to our vet. We arrived the receptionist looked at us with a puzzled look and said, 'Who is this dog?' I replied, 'The dog you are supposed to neuter today.' They didn't even have him in the computer system. Things were going from bad to worse for the pup. First he was to lose his manhood and now he was said to not even exist. We both left, tails between our legs (figuratively), but somewhat relieved.**

**Believing this must be some kind of sign from God, I put him in the seat next to me in the car and assured him of God's great mercy, 'You really dodged a bullet today, buddy!' I told him as I nuzzled his face. I then decided to call my wife to ask her what in the heck happened. She was a little bit agitated at me and informed me that I had gone to the wrong vet. As it turns out, the pup was scheduled for his "procedure" to take place at PetSmart, of all places. PetSmart!?! The place that sells pet supplies does this kind of surgery? Since when did they get in the castration business?**

**She then calmly reminded me that she had told me that this was to be a PetSmart all along and those words I hate to hear.....'You must have not been listening.' I let her know that I am sure that I would have remembered PetSmart. If she had said PetSmart, a little red flag would have gone up, PetSmart? Neutering? What? I thought they just sold dog toys. But no red flag went up in my head, so I just heard, "Puppy...neutering...Friday....vet? After I dropped the pup off at PetSmart for the surgery that would change his life forever, I decided to call my wife back and apologize. How quickly I had jumped to the place of BLAME. How my frustration with the breakdown of communication went to examining Her lack of clarity in telling me that this surgery was going to be at an illogical place like PetSmart and not focusing upon my lack of listening. This is the "Blame Game." We all do it, and then humble ourselves and ask for forgiveness, and own what we must own."**

**What do you do when you catch yourself doing it? Not only does this decrease our intimacy with our wives, it is a bad teaching moment for our kids. Our kids need to**

see us as fathers seek forgiveness in tenderness and mercy. Me? I have argued, pouted, raised my voice and the list goes on...not proud moments. I look back and hoped my two young sons weren't around to see my behavior. You see, Kids have the video and voice recorder going 24/7 which imprints upon their memory how the dad handled the problem and I just bet the same visual and learned behavior will play out with their marriages.

Guy, in all things, Listen, Listen and Love, Love. Recognize when you're wrong and tenderly and with grace, apologize with your words and maybe a hug and a kiss goes a long way. I bet you are the real loser if you choose to fight that battle!