



PART 8: The Thrill of the Catch

INTRODUCTION

Whether we're talking about sales, fishing, dating, or people behaving badly, we love the "thrill of the catch." It's why *TMZ* and *Dateline NBC* exist. There is a critical, judgmental, knee-jerk response buried deep inside all of us. It has a tendency to rise up when we "catch" someone else who has messed-up. That response has contributed to a Bad Church Experience for many of us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you think of the church, do you think of restoration or condemnation? What experiences have shaped your perceptions?
2. Why is it easier to condemn others than it is to restore them? What does it cost you to restore someone else?
3. Read Romans 8:1-2. How would our relationships change if we lived out the words of these verses?
4. Do you need to step up and be a better carrier or do you need to step out and allow others to carry you? Explain.
5. Think of one person whose burdens you can help carry. What is one thing you can do to help that person this week? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

What type of church will we be? Will we "catch and carry" or will be "catch and condemn?" The way people are "caught" in this church will be defined each time one of us encounters someone who stumbles or falls. Some of us need to be better carriers. Some of us need to allow others to carry us.

Let's catch the way we want to be caught.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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

Galatians 6:2