

Not the way it's Supposed to Be: Chapters 9- 10

Chapter 9 → *Attack*

1-What does the story of Lyndon B. Johnson illustrate so well?

- Why did he choose to name this chapter, "Attack?"
- Where does this this strong instinct to hurt or harm others for our benefit come from?
- Where have you seen this lived out on our campus?

2-Why did Plantinga choose the sin of lying to dissect and investigate this sinful phenomenon of vandalizing shalom?

- How is lying a community sin? How does it vandalize shalom?
- What's the power and appeal of a lie?

3-How does envy fuel the "community attacking" sin of lying?

- Where do you see this in the story of Miss Harvest Queen and Miss Homecoming?
- How would you define envy? *How is it different than jealousy?*
- What do you think the relationship is between envy and entitlement? *Perfectionism?*
- How is envy different from coveting?

4-Why do we struggle to rejoice in the beauty, riches, and wholeness of others? *Why do we have to win?*

- Why does Plantinga argue that anger is the point of envy?
- What is anger? (Passionate againstness)
- Why are the envious angry?
- What makes you angry that you wish didn't make you angry?

5-Why do we often think of someone else's good as an injury to ourselves?

- How does pride drive us to attack others so that we can be seen as the best?

6--What's the remedy? What can keep us from attacking and harming others to build ourselves up?

Chapter 10 → *Flight*

1—How does the stories of Nazi Germany and the science experiment illustrate how easily humans will abandon the calling to pursue shalom?

2—Let's run through the 8 ways we shirk responsibility and abandon shalom....

1. Conforming (peer pressure)

- How does peer pressure make it easier to do things we know are not right?
- How does Plantinga illustrate this one?
- Why is peer pressure so convincing?

2. Conniving

- How were the neighbors of Kitty Genovese guilty of conniving?
- Why is it so hard to “get involved” when so much evil is running amuck?
- How do we make sense of the breadth of injustice and our small resources to do anything about them? *Are we guilty?*

3. Leaving Town

- What does “leaving town” look like?

4. Specializing

- How do “Specialists” get away with shirking moral responsibility?

5. Minimizing-

- What are some examples of ways we minimize the responsibility we have?
- Can you think of any examples of this that are common at UW?

6. Going Limp

- How are facebook or Netflix ways that we as a society have given up and gone limp?
- What do you think of screwtapes advice that... “...the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slopes, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

7. Cocooning

- What is cocooning and how do we use it to protect us from being uncomfortable?

8. Amusing ourselves to death

- What's wrong with seeing amusement/pleasure as the main business of life? What's attractive about it?
- How does this distract us from shalom building?

→Take a look at the 9 options we've just discussed. Which ones can you identify as your own pitfalls?

3—How are all of our attempts to evade responsibility, ultimately a refusal of our calling as human beings made in the image of God?

- What's the antidote for our functional “godlessness?”

-How do we mature to be full-fledged “adult” Christian, following God with integrity and delight?