

ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY

Int.

1. Aim: To show that we must accept the responsibility for what we do.
2. Text - Lk. 12:48 "But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few [stripes]. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." - much given -- much required - parable of unfaithful steward
3. Definition of word Responsibility
 - a. "The ability to respond" -- Where there is a need and I have the ability to respond then I am responsible.
 - b. "Opportunity + Ability = Responsibility"
4. One of great problems in the church is getting those who can function in a capable way to do so.
 - a. There are many who have the capabilities and the occasions to serve in the Lord's kingdom, but they are constantly shirking their responsibility.
 - b. When God has blessed one with the tools to be used in His service then that person will be held accountable, they will have to answer, for not so using the equipment that the Lord has blessed them with in their lives.
 - c. Illustration: Responsibility: Doctor passed up scene of accident
 - d. James 4:17
5. One of greatest challenges of our day is accepting responsibility.
6. From beginning: Adam and Eve tried to excuse their action by placing blame on another.
 - a. Criminals point finger at another any say, "He talked me into it."
 - b. Children caught in wrong acts try to shift the blame.

- c. Will Rogers said that there were three stages in American history: "The passing of the Indian, the passing of the buffalo, and the passing of the buck."
 - d. Some think that if we can blame someone else for our failures and sins we become guiltless. "Let George Do It".
7. No area of our lives is exempt from the practice of blaming others.
- a. Marriages fail because one blames the other. "Not as attentive," "bad habits,"
 - b. Parents blame teachers for failure of children.
 - c. Teachers blame students and parents for the problems they have with students.
8. Even in the church the problem exists.
9. We will study some possible situations and ask the question, "who is responsible?"

Discussion

I. IF A PERSON DIES IN A LOST CONDITION, WHO IS TO BLAME?

A. One cannot blame:

1. God

a. **Jn. 3:16**

b. His desire that all be saved (**I Tim. 2:4**). "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

2. Christ

a. **Heb. 2:9** "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

b. **Rev. 1:5** "

3. Holy Spirit

- a. Jn. 16:8 "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"
- b. Rom. 8:16 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"

4. Bible

- a. Eph. 3:4 "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)"
- b. 2 Pet. 1:3 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"

B. Some may share blame, but this is "their responsibility."

1. Members of family (**Eph. 6:1-4**).
2. The church, hypocrites. "Woe" **Mt. 18:7** "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"
3. One's spouse - **Gen. 3**
4. The devil (**1 Pet. 5:8**). Only power is to tempt.

C. Real blame is on the individual!

1. Each accountable for choice - **Jas. 1:13-17**
2. Give account for deeds in our body - **2 Cor. 5:10,11**
3. Not responsible for what happens to you (from outward circumstances), but you are responsible for how you react to it!

- D. If you are lost, it will be because you have chosen to sin (**Rom. 3:23**), and refused to obtain forgiveness on God's terms.

II. IF YOU ARE NOT GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN, WHO IS TO BLAME?

- A. Most realize the need; perhaps feel "uneasy" about the fact that not growing.
- B. Cannot blame the religious world (confusion), or neighbors.
- C. May put blame on the "church." Purpose is to "build up."
1. May blame preacher, elders, teachers for not helping to grow. They have a great responsibility. They will answer for job they do!
 - a. **Heb. 13:17**
 - b. **I Tim. 4:16**
 2. But this is a two-way street.
- D. Real blame is SELF:
1. Commanded to grow (**2 Pet. 1:5-11**). Must have "desire" (**I Pet. 2:2**). Each is responsible for developing and maintaining his desire for spiritual food, avoiding those things which would destroy that desire.
 2. To be DOERS of the word (**Jas. 1:18-24**). Most effective means of growth in the knowledge is to put into practice what learn.

III. WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CHURCH ?

A. Teaching the Lost

1. Mark 16:15-16 Matt. 28:18-20
2. Who has the responsibility to teach the lost?
3. Who will go to the people who have never heard the truth and teach them the Bible?

B. Teach the Bible Classes

1. Matt. 28:18-20
2. Teaching them to observe all things - involves Bible classes
3. Who has this responsibility?
4. Who is going to study and put forth the effort to teach the Bible classes in this congregation?
5. Who is willing to spend the hours and make the sacrifice?

C. VISIT

1. Jas. 1:27 - visit the fatherless and widows
2. Who will be the foster parents? Adopt the children? Care for the widows?
3. Who will go to the nursing homes? To the homes of the shut ins?

D. Church Leadership

1. Elders, Deacons, and preachers.
2. Who will prepare himself to serve as an Elder or deacon?
3. Who is willing to study to become a preacher and preach the word?

IV. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY !!!!

A. Responsibility = the ability to respond

1. Where there is a need and I have the ability to respond then I am responsible.
2. Where there is a need and I have not the ability to respond, I am not responsible.
3. The meaning is very clear - I have responsibilities and I must do them.
4. 1 Cor. 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

B. "Let George Do it"

1. So often we try to avoid the responsibilities which the Lord placed upon us!
2. We try to shift it to others and excuse ourselves by saying they will do it! The other people will be happy to do the job. I'm too busy, or do not want to get involved!
3. Illustration: Responsibility: Let George Do It
4. No one else can be responsible for you!!!
 - a. You are the only one who can meet your responsibilities.
 - b. I am the only one who can meet my responsibilities.
 - c. George can't do it for you. Neither can Mary do it for you!!

C. EVERYONE IS NEEDED

1. Pill of a bridge: In an ideal bridge the load is supposed to be evenly distributed over the entire structure. When a train crosses the bridge, every important piece of metal or concrete bears its share of the strain. When there is a failure to distribute the strain of the load then one piece gets too much of the load and it breaks and this causes the bridge to collapse.

2. Application to the church:
 - a. Everyone is needed
 - b. If many members shirk their responsibility then it throws too much upon someone else who is already overburdened.
 - c. The ideal situation is that each of us is to carry our part of the Load !!
 - d. To be strong the church needs the cooperation of all its members.
 - e. I Cor.12:14 "For the body is not one member, but many."

CONCLUSION

1. Must teach and stress responsibility in all areas of life.
2. God's word declares that the individual is responsible.
3. JUDGMENT says that you are responsible for what you do. God's requirement of repentance says you are responsible.
4. If you are not a Child of God and responsible for your acts, you are separated from the love of God- lost. Who is to blame? It is because you have chosen to reject the mercy of God. In so doing, judge self unworthy of eternal life (Acts 13:46).
5. As members of the church we have responsibility: Definition of word Responsibility
 - a. "The ability to respond" -- Where there is a need and I have the ability to respond then I am responsible.
 - b. "Opportunity + Ability = Responsibility"
6. 1 Cor. 16:13 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."