



Part 3 – Do My Part – Living Responsibly
(Selected Scriptures)

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I. INTRODUCTION

How we know we are truly growing up is that we take on grown up **responsibilities** and do it well.

“The willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self-respect springs.” (Joan Didion, 20th Century Journalist who devoted her writings to expose the disintegration of American morals.)

*“The price of greatness is **responsibility**.”* (Winston Churchill)

II. AM I TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY LIFE AND MY FAMILY AT THE LEVEL I **SHOULD?**

A. Our culture is becoming less and less responsible and, in fact, in some ways irresponsibility is almost **celebrated**.

B. *The Constitution has given me certain rights; therefore, I have the right to be irresponsible, and you don't have the right to hold me accountable. I have the right to do whatever I want to do and say whatever I want to say and act any way I want to act. You don't have the right to hold me responsible. At the same time,*

you are responsible to clean up my mess and foot my bill that I create through my irresponsibility. As an American citizen, my rights give me the opportunity to act irresponsibly, but you don't have the right to do anything about it. (Andy Stanley's observation of a misunderstanding of "responsibility" within our culture.)

- C. We are becoming a nation of **victims**. It's not my fault. It's somebody else's fault. I have my rights!
- D. Irresponsibility isn't just an individual decision; it's **corporate**.
- E. *Ephesians 5:15* "Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise..."

Ephesians 5:15 "Live life with a sense of responsibility, not as those who don't know the meaning of life, but as those who do." (paraphrase)

III. HOW DO WE LEARN TO LIVE RESPONSIBLY?

A. Learn what responsible living is in **God's** eyes.

1. *Joshua 24:14-15* "Now **fear** the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
2. To fear God means that we recognize His power and authority in our life to the point that we honor Him and openly **submit** ourselves to Him.
3. *1 Corinthians 13: 11* "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me."

B. Recognize that our choices **affect** others.

1. *Philippians 2:3-4* "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.
2. Being responsible means that we make decisions not just on the basis of what we want or makes us feel good but what others need around us and how it will affect them. When we do that, it is evidence we are truly **growing** up.

C. Take advantage of God's promise of **reward** for responsible living.

- 1. *Deuteronomy 28:2* "You will experience all of God's blessings **if** you obey the Lord."
- 2. *2 Chronicles 16:9* "For the eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, looking for people whose hearts are perfect (mature; grown up; responsible) toward Him, so that He can show His great power in helping them."
- 3. *"To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given."* (Jesus)

D. Take seriously God's promise of an accountability that is coming.

- 1. *Hebrews 4:13* "God knows about everyone, everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from Him to whom we must explain all that we have done."
- 2. *2 Corinthians 5:10* "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."
- 3. *"The most important idea I ever thought was the day I realized that I am personally and individually accountable to God for how I lived."* (Daniel Webster – 18th Century)

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