

In search of...

Truth & Right

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Take Responsibility

What started with “the dog ate my homework” has morphed into some insane refusal for many to take responsibility. If a child receives a low grade at school it is not the child’s fault, but rather the teacher’s. If a young person acts up on a youth trip it is not the teen’s fault, but rather the youth leader. If an employee receives a pink slip for not doing his or her job it’s not the employee’s fault, but rather the mean employer. Or if a driver receives a ticket for reckless driving because he or she was texting while driving, it is not their fault, but rather the mean police officer who was trying to reach his or her “quota.”

Take a minute and listen—

really listen—to people today. People shun responsibility like the plague. Don’t believe me? Shadow a parent for one day and listen to how many times the parent will stand up for his or her child, even if the child is blatantly at fault. It is almost sickening at how often (and how easy) we shirk responsibility and instead throw someone else under the bus.

Sadly, even Christians have embraced this worldly mentality. Surely their precious “angels” could not have done anything wrong. And certainly mom and dad are not to blame for anything. Thus the child grows up believing that the way to handle a problem is to blame someone else.

Imagine if Jonah refused to

take responsibility. The seas were stormy and the men feared for their lives. The men had cast lots to determine who was at fault and it fell to Jonah. Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause *is* this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" (Jonah 1:8). They continued on by asking why he had done this? A modern-day Jonah would blame God for the storm. Or he would look for fault in the mariners. Or he might even go so far as to blame the ship builder for not building a sturdier boat that could withstand fierce storms.

However, Jonah took responsibility: "And he said to them, 'Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest *is* because of me'" (Jonah 1:12).

While many have become professional at deflecting blame or shifting attention to someone else, their tactics will not work with God. Paul wrote, "But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we

shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: 'As I live, says the Lord,

Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.' **So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.**" (Romans 14:10-12, emp. added). On that great day it will not be the teacher's fault, the youth leader's fault, or the employer's fault. Rather, the Righteous Judge of the World, who knows all, will judge each according to his or her deeds.

Accepting blame means humbling yourself. It means recognizing you have many imperfections. It means, "manning" up even in a culture that loves to blame everyone else. And while this may leave a bitter taste in the mouths of those who have perfected the art of blaming others, this is also one of the first steps in acknowledging you are a sinful creature in need of the blood of Christ.

A life of blaming others feeds a haughty spirit and causes us to not fully appreciate what Christ did for us on the cross. Commenting on this beautiful gift Paul wrote, For He

made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). Can you imagine if Jesus had hung on the cross blaming you and me for each one of our sins? Instead, He shouldered our sin and gave us an example.

Responsibility is a hard lesson for many to learn. But better to teach our children responsibility on earth than to have their world rocked in heaven when they try—unsuccessfully—to shift responsibility on the Day of Judgment.

Be honest and ask yourself:

Whose responsibility is it to train up your children?

Whose responsibility is it to go teach the lost?

Whose responsibility is it to work heartily, as for the Lord?

Whose responsibility is it to care for the widows and orphans?

Whose responsibility is it to care for widowed parents?

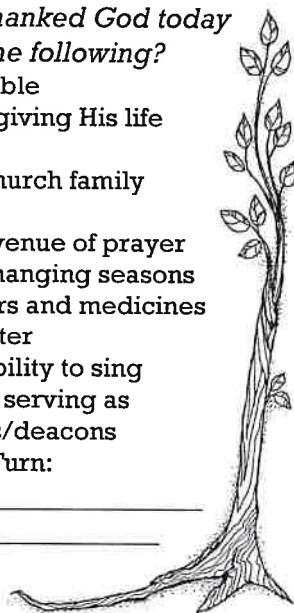
Isn't it time we, as Christians, set a different pattern than the world? Isn't it time we take responsibility?

Brad Harrub

God gave you a gift of
86,400
seconds today. Have
you used one to say
THANK YOU?

Have you thanked God today for any of the following?

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- Jobs
- The avenue of prayer
- The changing seasons
- Doctors and medicines
- Laughter
- The ability to sing
- Those serving as elders/deacons
- Your Turn:



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WELLSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST

92 Rose Cottage Lane
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422

<http://www.truthandright.org>



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The Great Banquet

N G B B I Q A Y I D I V S W K J S P V W
 Z O N A A Y I S T F A D C Q D X N Y L K
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 A L F E Q R E B W Q T J E X C U S E S A
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 C O M M A N D E D D E U I U G H W L Y Q

DIRECTIONS: Look up the scripture in the Bible, and find the answer in the crossword above.

Luke 14:16, A man once gave a great banquet and _____ many.

Luke 14:17, ...he sent his _____ to say to those...

Luke 14:18, But they all alike began to make _____.

Luke 14:19, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to _____ them.

Luke 14:20, And _____ said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot...

Luke 14:21, ...came and _____ these things to his master.

Luke 14:21, 'Go out _____ to the streets and lanes of the city,
and bring in the poor and _____ and blind and lame.'

Luke 14:22, 'Sir, what you _____ has been done, and still there is room.'

Luke 14:23, 'Go out to the _____ and hedges and compel people to come

Luke 14:23, ...that my house may be _____.

Luke 14:24, ...none of those men who were invited shall taste my _____.