

A spiritual reflection on the virtue of RESPONSIBILITY from a Christian perspective.

Knowing and doing what is expected of us because of God's love for us and our love for Him.

Our Christian lives begin and end with personal responsibility. It is not until each one of us become personally responsible before God through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit; realizing our need for salvation, that our sins *can* be forgiven. Often we like to think its automatic, but the ministry of both John the baptist and Jesus began and continued proclaiming the necessity of repentance. Even when Jesus cried from the cross, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do," there was still a need for individual personal responsibility and repentance in order to receive that provision of forgiveness. Personal responsibility and repentance are the switch that cause forgiveness to flow from the "Divine Power Company." Then, our greatest responsibility begins.

We are all aware of our responsibility to God to love, serve, obey and worship Him, but God has other responsibilities for us to live. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus... - [Colossians 3:16-17]." Both Paul's epistle to the Ephesians and the Colossians lay out a pattern of expectation with respect to our responsibilities in our human relationships in light of this command. (Responsibilities to neighbors, church and human governments are addressed elsewhere throughout Scripture.)

Our responsibilities are addressed in each instance beginning with marriage, which is the highest human relationship. The responsibilities of children to parents and parents to children are then addressed followed by the duties of employees to employers and employers to employees. These relationships are addressed with regard to love, submission, obedience, fairness and justice. We are to discharge each of these responsibilities as unto the Lord. It would serve us well to read Colossians 3:15 - 4:1 and compare what should be, to what actually exists in our lives. Responsibility after all is, knowing and then doing what is expected of us.

Submitted by
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