

## RESPONSIBILITY AS A VALUE

We live in an age when all too many people are quick to assert their rights, but are very slow to assume their responsibilities.

Responsibility brings accountability, which may be one reason why it is so unpopular.

Charles Spurgeon wrote: "You may take it as a rule that the Spirit of God does not usually do for us what we can do for ourselves."

With privilege comes responsibility. Many want the privileges. Very few want the responsibilities.

Sir Winston Churchill declared: "Responsibility is the price of greatness."

Abraham Lincoln observed: "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."

***"He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer."*** Proverbs 18:9

Responsibility is something that most people dread, yet taking responsibility is what develops us into being a man, or woman, of God. We are quick to make excuses or to blame others, but what we should be doing is taking responsibility and making a plan.

The Scriptures teach man's responsibility. We are responsible before God to obey His Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments teach us respect for God, respect for parents, respect for people and respect for property.

The Lord Jesus Christ summarized our duty as: ***"You are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.... and you are to love your neighbour as yourself."*** Mark 12:30-31

The first Tablet of the Law specifies how we are to show our love for God. We are responsible to ensure that we worship God alone, that we never bow before any idols, that we never take God's Name in vain, and that we remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.

The second Tablet of the Law reveals our responsibilities to our neighbour. We are not to steal our neighbour's life, we are not to steal our neighbour's wife, we are not to steal our neighbour's property, we are not to steal our neighbour's reputation by bearing false witness against him and we are not to be jealous or envious of our neighbour.

***"But he who looks into the perfect Law of Liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."*** James 1:25

***"The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul."*** Psalm 19:7

Above all else love God alone.  
Bow down to neither wood nor stone.  
God's Name refuse to take in vain.  
The Sabbath rest with care maintain.  
Respect your parents all your days.  
Hold sacred innocent life always.

Be loyal to your chosen mate.  
Steal nothing neither small nor great.  
Report, with truth, your neighbour's deed.  
And rid your mind of selfish greed.

### **RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS**

For a society to be prosperous and successful it is essential that society be made up primarily of moral people who take responsibility. The foundation for a truly free and stable society can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal, diligent people who are hardworking and productive, compassionate families who are concerned for their neighbours and responsible workers who will fulfill their obligations and be faithful stewards of public resources. ***“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”*** Colossians 3:23

### **FOUNDATIONS FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE**

The essential foundations for morality are: Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the Fear of God. The Law of God is the only effective foundation for freedom and justice. A society where people are concerned to fulfill their responsibilities before God and man would be a society where freedom of worship, respect for authority, the right to life, the sanctity of marriage and private ownership of property would be secure.

### **DEPENDABILITY**

Employers are looking for responsible individuals. Those who are reliable, dependable people of integrity are always in high demand. The greatest ability is dependability when it comes to our responsibility.

***“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed...”*** 2 Timothy 2:15

The Scriptures teach stewardship. ***“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”*** 1 Corinthians 4:2

How faithful are you in fulfilling your responsibilities?

***“But I tell you that men will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”*** Matthew 12:36

Do you take responsibility for the words of your mouth and the communications you send? Do you make excuses? Or do you make a plan?

***“So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”*** Romans 14:12

Will God find you faithful to the responsibilities entrusted to you?

Dr. Peter Hammond  
[www.frontline.org.za](http://www.frontline.org.za)  
[mission@frontline.org.za](mailto:mission@frontline.org.za)  
Tel: 021-689-4480