

BEING RESPONSIBLE

Irresponsible people refuse to take responsibility for the things they are responsible for.

Irresponsibility is easily seen in others, but our irresponsibility can be hard for us to see!

Irresponsibility is increasing in our society.

“I have the right to do what I want, when I want and with who I want without ‘owning’ the consequences.”

Irresponsibility can be contagious.

Parents should be concerned with who their children spend time with.

Irresponsibility creates conflict.

Our irresponsible choices impact those connected to us, who innocently become entangled in our mess!

Every time we are irresponsible, we create conflict somewhere with someone.

We have a bent towards being irresponsible.

*Those who live by their natural inclinations can never be pleasing to God. **Romans 8:8***

Those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus should be the most responsible people on the planet because we should desire to please Jesus with how we live – as responsible citizens.

We were created to be responsible.

Genesis 1:27-28 (erv) So God created humans in His own image. He created them to be like Himself. He created them male and female. ²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Have many children. Fill the earth and take control of it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the air. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Have you ever met a happy irresponsible person?

Genesis 2:15-17 (erv) The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to work the soil and take care of the garden. ¹⁶The Lord God gave him this command: “You may eat from any tree in the garden. ¹⁷But you must not eat from the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil. If you eat fruit from that tree, on that day you will certainly die!”

In the beginning, there was lots of responsibility, but only one rule - not to eat from that one tree.

Genesis 3:8 (tniv) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God

among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

When we take responsibility for the things we are responsible for - beginning with ourselves - we don't need many rules.

¹² "He said, the woman you put here with me she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

When we use blame to cover up our mess or wrongdoing, guilt and shame are close by.

We'll never break any bad habit until we accept responsibility of it.

Excusing ourselves and accusing others for our irresponsibility never fixes the issues.

Proverbs 19:3 (gnb) Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid actions and then blame the Lord.

We are responsible for our behaviour!

Galatians 6:5 (nlt) For we are each responsible for our own conduct.

In the first century, Christian was more a political term, not a religious one.

First century followers of Jesus weren't branded Christian to separate them from other religions like the followers of Zeus.

The term Christian was created based on Latin political terminology. Christian was comparable to other political associations like Caesariani, followers of Ceasar.

In time, to be called Christian would mark a person as anti-Roman, not anti religious.

Christians were viewed as threats to the Roman government, not because of what they believed.

Christians were viewed as threats because of who they chose to obey!

Obeying Jesus will cause us to attend to our wrong attitudes and behaviours.

Jesus understood this dilemma and addressed it

John 14:23-24 (ncv) "...If people love Me, they will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make Our home with them. ²⁴ Those who do not love Me do not obey My teaching..."

Obeying Jesus' teachings reveals our love for Him.

*James 2:24 (cev) We please God by **what we do** and **not only** by what we believe.*

The Christ follower is to be so convinced of **WHO** Jesus is and so grateful for **WHAT** Jesus has done that they willingly choose to **DO** what Jesus says!

This is the recipe to being a responsible citizen.

If we live life wholeheartedly obeying Jesus' teachings, we will always choose to be responsible avoiding being irresponsible!