



Accepting Responsibility

- **Stop living "Just for Fun"**
 - **Start addressing the things in your life that need improvement**
 - **The things in your life that are slowing you down from your goal of serving God**
 - **Let's work on improving them, and then get on with the Road Ahead**
- We must accept responsibility for a problem before we can solve it
 - Whatever your problem is...
 - Swearing, gossiping, thinking evil of others...
- If there is something about your life that you don't like
 - Something that causes conflict, pressure, upset...
 - No matter WHAT it is...
 - YOU have to change

- You cannot expect others to change
 - YOU are responsible for YOU
 - Blaming others doesn't solve anything in your life
 - Accepting Responsibility does
 - Our NATURAL tendency is to blame others
 - That's the fleshly, sinful, NATURAL reaction
 - The Godly reaction is quite the opposite
 - There are examples in the Bible of people who act both ways:
 - ***David & Bathsheba***
 - 2nd Samuel 12:7 & 13
 - David has sinned with Bathsheba
 - Nathan comes to confront him with this problem
 - This is extremely brave of Nathan
 - An extremely tense and stressful time...
- 7) And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;
- Nathan comes and points the finger right at David,
 - YOU are the man!
 - Tension fills the air as everyone sits shocked and they are all curious to see how David is going to react
- 13) And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD.
- I have sinned against the Lord
 - Immediately, he Accepts Responsibility for his action

- He could have blamed her for being on the rooftop
 - It was the middle of the day, for crying out loud...
- He could have blamed his "Manly desires"
 - You would have done the same thing... Look at her!
- Acknowledges that HE is the one responsible
 - HE is the one that has sinned against the Lord...
- Because he honestly and openly accepts responsibility for his sin, look how God reacts...

• 2nd Samuel 12:13

13) And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

- David accepts responsibility for his actions
- Also accepts that his actions have an impact in his life
 - His son dies
- But, David is forgiven...

• Let's look at an opposite example

• ***Adam & Eve***

• Genesis 3:9-13

- 9) And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?
- 10) And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.
- 11) And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?
- 12) And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.
- 13) And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

- There is the same kind of tension in the air here
 - God asks this question, and it hangs out there...
 - Did you eat of the tree?
- Look at all the finger pointing here...
 - The Woman that YOU gave me...
 - Who is he really blaming here?
 - The Serpent... He beguiled me...
 - Who created the Serpent?
- They both were responsible for what they did
 - Do you see either one of them accepting any responsibility here?
 - He did it!
 - She did it!
 - YOU did it!
- Next time you find yourself in the same kind of uncomfortable position and tension fills the air, as that question hangs out there waiting for your answer...
 - You can respond like either one of these examples...
- You can respond like David and accept responsibility for what has happened, and move toward resolving it...
- Or you can respond like Adam with your fleshly, sinful, natural reaction to blame someone or something else and avoid accepting responsibility for your actions
 - And avoid moving towards ANY type of resolution of the problem
- By blaming other things
 - Friends, parents, teachers, work, school
 - You avoid accepting responsibility, and don't solve the problem
 - "My parents are jerks..."
 - How much is it that you are really acting like a jerk, and they're

just acting like parents?

- "Cops are mean..."
 - They don't generally pick on good people, only those who are doing something wrong...
- "All my friends were doing it, so I..."
- Japanese Proverb: Fix the problem, don't fix the blame
- By blaming things outside your own self, you also ignore one of the first principles
- Huh?
- The REAL Devil...
- James 1:13-15
 - 13) Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:
 - 14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.
 - 15) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
- We don't believe in a devil, right?
- YOU are the cause of your own sins...
 - Nothing OUTSIDE you can MAKE you sin...
 - It's about time that we started accepting responsibility for what we do...
- Me giving a Lecture about how we are responsible for our own sins
 - And the car broke down
 - I yelled and screamed at that car...
 - I could'nt believe how angry that car made me...
 - Then I realized that it wasn't the car that was making me lose my temper
 - I was losing my temper!

- NOTHING makes you do ANYTHING!
- You are not the cause of every problem in your life, but you can be the solution
 - "It's not my fault, it's the..."
 - General Rule:
 - It doesn't matter whose fault it is, it's YOUR responsibility
 - Others may be acting wrong also, but look to yourself first.
- Often you'll find, "I'm the one with the problem"
 - I don't want to face it
 - I don't want to change
- Because I'm too lazy, or too afraid, or I don't know where to begin...
- Accepting Responsibility is a big part of repentance
 - You have to accept the fact that you are wrong
 - That you are the one that has a problem.
- You cannot repent, or be forgiven until you have accepted that the problem is yours
- We do not accept responsibility for our behaviour because we do not want to accept the pain of the consequences of our behaviour
 - "I didn't break the lamp"...
 - Afraid of a spanking
 - "I'm not the one that caused the problem"...
 - Afraid of having to change if you are
- We must always realize that we are in control of our lives, and therefore we are responsible for all of our actions, and we can confront the pain involved in correcting our lives.
- To accept responsibility for our problems, we have to be able to honestly examine and evaluate our lives to discover what our problems really are...

- To do this we have to be Dedicated to Truth
 - That is what we are going to talk about next...