



Dgroup Discussion Guide for February 18, 2018

Assume Responsibility

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

One of the minefields that can be dangerous to the family is excusitis, a habitual pattern of making excuses. It's a mindset that makes you believe that others are always at fault for the bad things that happen to you; in other words, it's a lack of personal responsibility.

Matthew 7:3,5 says, "***Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.***" We have this tendency to put the lives of other people—especially fellow believers—under a microscope, picking at their shortcomings and comparing our XX to theirs. However, the Bible is clear in instructing that we must first examine our lives before looking at others'. That way, instead of criticizing them, we're able to help them.

Why should we assume responsibility?

1. It is God's design.

In the book of Genesis we learn that when Adam was put in the Garden of Eden, he was given the responsibility of cultivating it. Whenever we assume responsibility for whatever role is given to us, we are demonstrating our act of service to the Lord.

The devil however attacks us to doubt, to deny God's Word and to question His character. Eve disobeyed because she was deceived that God, in commanding them not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, did not want them to reach their maximum potential. To suspect that God is not good is the root of all sin.

When God confronted Adam and Eve of their sin, this led to excuses after excuses as Adam and Eve tried to vindicate themselves from the sin and from guilt.

It's always easier to deflect blame toward someone else, and it may seem like deflecting blame only impacts us, but the truth is that it affects other people when we don't accept the consequences of our actions. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and tasted the fruit from the forbidden tree, their eyes were opened and they saw that they were naked. Because of this, the Lord had to clothe them in garments of skin (Genesis 3:21), which means that an animal had to be sacrificed to cover the two. Irresponsibility is not a neutral thing; somebody always ends up paying for our irresponsibility.

3. It's for our good.

Matthew 25:14-30 tells of the Parable of the Talents. A master distributed his possessions among three servants; while the other two traded with the talents they received, the third hid his share in the ground. When the master returned, the two slaves were able to present him with double of what they were entrusted, and they were rewarded accordingly. The third, on the other hand, was punished for his laziness. We are responsible for what God has—and has not—entrusted to us. We must assume responsibility for our own choices, because while we are free to make them, we are not free from the consequences of our actions.

Although we are supposed to take responsibility for our choices, we must not forget that at one time, somebody else took on the consequences of our sins. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "**He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**" Sin could not be left unpunished, because as loving as God is, He is also just. Just like the animal had to sacrifice its life to clothe Adam and Eve, Jesus Christ had to sacrifice his life for our sins. Because of this, we must make it our mission to be pleasing to God. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 says, "**Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. PLEASE HIM. What is the command in 2 Corinthians 5:9-10? How can I apply this in my life?
2. BLAME GAME. In a scale of 1 to 10, how easy or how hard is it for me to take responsibility? What are the instances that it becomes easy to assume responsibility and what are the instances that it is difficult to assume responsibility?
3. ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY. How can I improve in assuming responsibility? List down specific areas of your life where you can start assuming responsibility.

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.