



Topic Two Curriculum

Personal Responsibility

- 1) What Is Personal Responsibility?
- 2) How Can I Improve My Personal Responsibility?
 - Assignment: write a short essay (somewhere between one paragraph and one page) on the importance of personal responsibility in your life, and what things you will do differently to add discipline and responsibility on a regular basis. Send by email to bking@maministries.org)
 - Due date Wednesday June 22nd at 12noon.

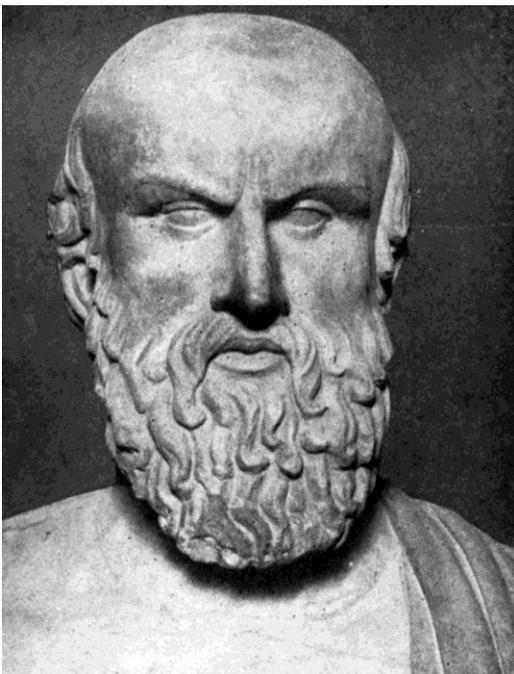
What is Personal Responsibility?



“The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight.”

Theodore Roosevelt
26th President

(i.e. self-reliance is our duty to society)



“The gods love to help him who strives to help himself.”

Aeschylus
Greek philosopher

(i.e. self-reliance is in our own best interest)



Quotes on Personal Responsibility

Personal responsibility is not only the foundation of a useful employee; it is a philosophical underpinning of Western Civilization and of American civics.

1. “The gods love to help him who helps himself.” **Aeschylus**, 5th century BC Greek poet and philosopher.
2. “Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.” **Plato**, 4th century BC Greek philosopher.
3. “No man is fit to command another that is not fit to command himself.” **William Penn**, founder of the colony of Pennsylvania and a champion of democracy and individual liberty.
4. “Resolve to perform what you ought. Perform without fail what you resolve.” **Benjamin Franklin**, American founding father.
5. “You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.” **Abraham Lincoln**, 16th president of the United States.
6. “The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight.” **Theodore Roosevelt**, 26th president of the United States.
7. “Responsibility is the price of greatness.” **Sir Winston Churchill**, British prime minister during World War II.
8. “The buck stops here.” Famous sign on the Oval Office desk of **Harry S. Truman**, 33rd president of the United States.
9. “Our privileges can be no greater than our obligations. The protection of our rights can endure no longer than the performance of our responsibilities.” **John F. Kennedy**, 35th president of the United States.
10. “If we’re serious about reclaiming the dream, we have to do more in our own lives, our own families and our own communities.” **Barack Obama**, 44th president of the United States.

Personal Responsibility: A burden? Or a blessing?



- Burdens are negative things we instinctively avoid
- If we think of our responsibilities as burdens, we will procrastinate in performing them, or even avoid them entirely
- Deferring or ignoring our responsibilities is a bad habit with serious consequences
- Irresponsibility leads to powerlessness and loss of freedom in how we conduct our lives

- Being a victim might attract sympathy, and maybe even a bowl of soup; but nobody ever got a job by being a victim
- By eliminating the “cloak of victimhood” and by taking personal responsibility in our lives, we can change almost anything
- Personal responsibility gives power and freedom back to each individual
- Therefore, it should be viewed as a blessing, to be preserved and cherished



Personal Responsibility: It's Your Choice!

Victim Behavior

Ignoring

Denying

Blaming

Making Excuses

Resisting

Hiding

or

or

or

or

or

or

Responsible Behavior

Recognizing

Owning

Forgiving

Self-Examining

Learning

Taking Action



Foundations of Responsibility



- Honesty
- Underpromise and overdeliver
- Timeliness
- Paying your debts

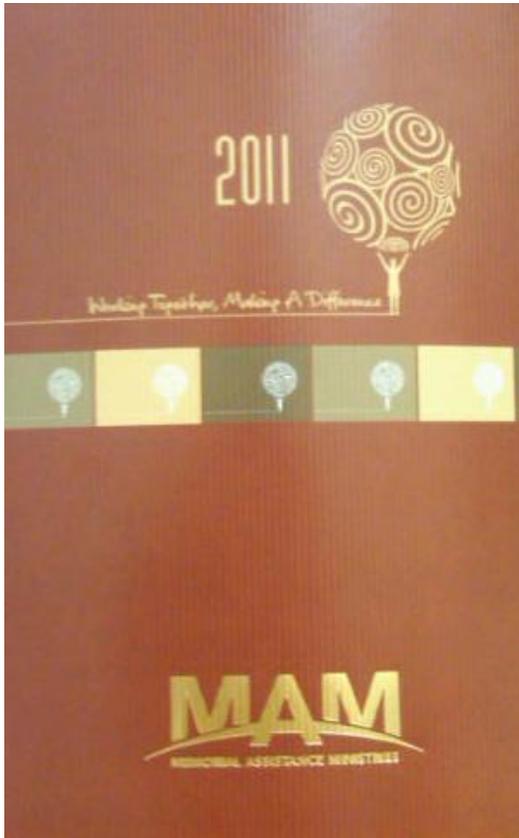


Foundations of Responsibility

- Honesty
 - Being honest in everyday situations gives you, over time, a reputation for integrity. Integrity is why people trust each other. Without such trust, there are no favors, and without favors, there is often no help.
- Underpromise / Overdeliver
 - Always do what you say you will do but do a little more, a little better, and a little faster than you promised you would. Commit to always providing a “Baker’s Dozen” in your life. Soon, others will see you as someone who exceeds expectations, and such persons are given more opportunity to succeed.
- Timeliness
 - Know your deadlines, and strive to beat them. People who meet or beat deadlines are trusted with more responsible tasks.
- Paying your debts
 - Do all in your power to pay your obligations as they come due. If you cannot, pay as much as you can, as soon as you can, and be forthcoming with your creditors about your payment problems. People who pay their debts and who communicate with creditors build up a credit history that allows others to put faith in them.



How Do I Become More Responsible?



- Motivation
- Accountability
- Goals
- Organization



How Do I Become More Responsible?

- **Motivation**
 - What inside of you inspires you to get up every day and give your very best effort? Find your source of motivation and watch your performance immediately improve. Once your higher level of performance is a habit, you have a work ethic that others will invest in.
- **Accountability**
 - Sustainable motivation comes from within, but it never hurts to make yourself accountable to others. To what person or persons can you make yourself accountable? Being accountable helps to motivate us on our off-days and keeps us from losing our reputation for hard work.
- **Goals**
 - What will you accomplish this year? this month? this week? today? right now? Make a list. Habitual list makers get much more done.
- **Organization**
 - Even with motivation, accountability and goals, you must have something that helps you translate everything into daily action. Use a day planner that you keep with you at all times, to have all necessary information at your fingertips. It should have a calendar to track your meetings and commitments, a to-do list to help you stay on top of deadlines, and important contact information to facilitate quick communication.



Personal Responsibility Questions: Taking Charge of Your Life

1. What is one area of your life that you could improve?
2. How does it benefit you to **not** make the improvement?
3. What does it cost you and/or others to not make the improvement?
4. What can you start to do differently to make the improvement?
5. What help are you willing to ask for from others? Who? When?
6. How will you know that you have been successful?