

The Christian Arsenal

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YOUR LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

The Liberated Christian

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Part 1 of 4

Romans 14:12,13

“Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God. So don’t condemn each other anymore. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not put an obstacle in another Christian’s path.” Romans 14:12, 13 (NLT)

In all of life there are really only three responses to life.

WHAT ARE THE THREE RESPONSES TO LIFE?

1. THE ACCUSER.

These are the people who always blame other people for their problems.

They are the self-proclaimed victims of the world.

FAVORITE PHRASE: “IT’S ALL YOUR FAULT.”

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE: SARAI (Means “bitter”)

“Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had born him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar so she said to Abram, ‘The Lord has kept me from having children. Go sleep with my maidservant. Perhaps I can build a family through her ...’ And Abram agreed to what Sarai said. After Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai, his wife, took her Egyptian maidservant, Hagar, gave her to her husband to be his wife. Abram slept with Hagar and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

“Then Sarai said to Abram, ‘It’s all your fault! Now this servant of mine is pregnant and she despises me though I myself gave her the privilege of sleeping with you. The Lord will make you pay for doing this to me.’” Genesis 16:1-5 (LB, NLT)

NAMES FOR THIS GAME:

- Passing the Buck
- Dodging a Responsibility
- Shifting the Blame

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The goal of this game is to eliminate all personal responsibility by accusing everybody else for your problems.

WHO DO YOU BLAME?

Some people blame their past
Some people blame their parents.
Some people blame their spouse.
Some people blame their kids.
Some people blame the president.
Some people blame the devil.
Some people blame God.

As long as you persist in blaming other people for your problems, you're going to be a victim in life and you're going to be miserable.

2. THE EXCUSERS.

These are the people who have an excuse for everything. They can justify any mistake, any lack of responsibility. They can rationalize any failure.

FAVORITE PHRASE: "That's just the way I am ... I've always been that way."

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE: *"Jesus replied, 'A certain man was preparing a great banquet and he invited many guests. At the time of that banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited to come for everything is now ready. But, they all began to make excuses. The first one said, 'I've bought a field and I must go see it. Please excuse me.'"*

"Another said, 'I've bought five yoke of oxen. I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'"

"Still another came and said, 'I just got married so I can't come.'" Luke 14: 16-20

Benjamin Franklin: "People who are usually good at making excuses are seldom good for anything else."

George Washington Carver: "Ninety-nine percent of all failures are caused by those who make excuses."

These people spend all their time making excuses so they don't have the energy and the creativity to do something right.

If you are looking for an excuse in life there will always be someone there to give you one.

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The Three Most Influential Men of the Last 100 Years Created Gigantic Excuses for People

- Charles Darwin – You are an accident, a freak of natural selection – Blame evolution.
- Karl Marx – You're a victim of your circumstances – Blame economics.
- Sigmund Freud – You're a victim of your conditioning – Blame your environment.

The fact is, we are influenced by a lot of factors. But the more you shrink from personal responsibility, the smaller you become. An unhealthy person moves away from accepting responsibility for his own life.

Champions refuse to be controlled by circumstances. A winner never makes excuses for his life.

The greatest limitation on your ability is your attitude.

Accusers and Excusers are really just LOSERS.

3. THE CHOOSERS.

Nobody illustrates the issue of personal responsibility better than Moses.

There are people who make choices in life, who set their priorities. They accept responsibility for both success and failure. They accept responsibility for their sin and they accept responsibility for their spiritual growth. They accept responsibility for their life, they realize they are accountable to God and they are choosers. They don't live life by circumstance or chance but on their choices in life.

"By faith Moses' parents hid him when he was three months because they saw he was no ordinary child and they were not afraid of the King's edict. By faith when Moses had grown up, he refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter and he chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ of greater value than the treasures of Egypt because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the King's anger and persevered because he saw Him who is invisible." Hebrews 11:23-27

In v. 24 we see Moses refusing.

In v. 25 we see Moses choosing.

The fact of the matter is this, your ability to accept responsibility is the mark of your maturity.

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The greatest freedom that God ever gave you and me is the freedom of choice.

Someone has said, "What you are is God's gift to you. What you become is your gift to God."

"So then each of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:12

WHAT ARE WE ACCOUNTABLE FOR?

- Our time – Eph. 5 *"Make the most of every opportunity..."*
- Our words
- Our health – I Cor. 6:6 *"You were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your bodies ..."*
- Our finances – Luke 12:48 *"To whom much is given, much is required."*
- Our attitude - Victor Frankl: "They can take away everything in my life, but the one thing they cannot take away from me is my choice in how I will respond."
- Our relationship to God – Joshua 24:15 *"Choose you this day whom you will serve..."*