

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

*In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.*

### **Aim**

- ✠ To develop a good personality that can carry the responsibility in life.
- ✠ To show our care and responsibility toward others and ourselves.

### **Key verses**

- *“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself” (Ezek 18: 20)*
- *“Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal 6:7)*

### **Lesson**

#### **What is responsibility?**

The dictionary meaning of the word Responsible is: **“Liable to be required to give account, as of one's actions or of the discharge of a duty or trust”**. The meaning of Responsibility is **“reliability or dependability”** according to the dictionary.

That is, to be responsible is to be able to answer to all our actions. Every action we take in life we have to give an account about. Every action we take gets recorded in heaven and in the last day we will give an account on it. As responsible people we have to carry out specific tasks in life. As good Christians, our responsibility doesn't just involve believing in Our Lord Jesus Christ, and doing good deeds; but it is much more involved than that.

St Paul said in his epistle to the Galatians: *“Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Gal 6:7)*. That is, our actions determine the reward we get in life or in Heaven and also how far we go in life.

#### **What are we responsible towards?**

- Our first and foremost responsibility in life is towards our spiritual life. We are responsible to grow in our spiritual life to be worthy of entering Heaven. It is our responsibility to go to church, pray to God, read the Bible, participate in the Holy Sacraments, have good deeds, and serve God. It is also our responsibility to confess our sins and make sure that we repent with a sincere heart. All these make us eligible to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Not only are we responsible for our spiritual life, but also we are responsible for some aspects of the spiritual life of other people around us. In (Matthew 28: 20), Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His apostles and disciples to go baptise more people and teach them the Christian faith. Of course our responsibility is not to baptise others or to stand in the church and preach to them; but we can pray for those who are lost in sin that they come back to Christ. We can think of ways to bring those who went astray from the church back to God, by inviting them, loving them, and welcoming them in the church. A mother is responsible for the spiritual lives of her children by making them go to church and looking after their

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spiritual needs. A Christian person is responsible for the spiritual life of his/her friend by encouraging them to do the good and stay away from the bad.

- As we received the Christian faith from our parents, we have a responsibility to deliver this faith to people coming after us. Imagine if the apostles and disciples didn't go around the whole world to preach the faith to them. Imagine what would be the case if we were born in a time when people didn't care to teach us about the Coptic Orthodox faith? We would have no church, no tradition, no icons, no sacraments, and no martyrs. We wouldn't have known Christ, we wouldn't have been Christians, and we wouldn't have been able to have eternal life with Christ in Heaven.
  - So each and every one of us has the responsibility to keep our faith going to the next generations. We have a responsibility to be sensible people in order to grow and be mature adults who are able to deliver the correct Christian faith to our children.
  - We have a responsibility not to be affected by the outside world that we live in. We have been called to be children of Christ. We have a responsibility to show the image of Christ even if we are in a society that doesn't believe in Christ. That way we are able to keep our faith standing strong on a strong base like how the apostles and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ delivered it to us.
- Another great responsibility we carry is our responsibility towards our actions, behaviour, and choices in life. Our actions and decisions don't just affect us but they can also affect other people around us like our family and friends. A person, who chooses to smoke, doesn't just destroy his own health but he can also affect people around him who smell this smoke. This person is not considered to be a responsible one. A person who uses various other drugs doesn't just destroy his health but he also can increase the spread of various diseases and affects his/her family by wasting their money on drugs. A person who gets caught stealing doesn't just affect himself or herself, but they also devastate their families and other families because of their actions. These people are not considered responsible or sensible people. **We should never say "I don't care, I will do whatever I want" because this attitude does not please God at all. Christ created us in His image and Christ is not careless (God forbid we say that). Christ cares about every single human being, and also cares about the whole universe, so to be real sons and daughters of Christ, we should never have a careless attitude in life.**
- We also have a responsibility towards using our talents wisely. God gave each of us talents according to our abilities. Each and every one of us has been blessed by many talents that can vary from one person to the other. We all, however, have some similar talents, like the ability to learn and to work. It is a blessing to be able to go to school or to university. These talents are a responsibility from God and He will ask us about it in the last day. Our responsibility is to take our studies seriously and to be successful in life. A person who doesn't care about his or her studies is not considered a responsible person. Also, if we have a talent that can benefit the church or others and we don't use it, it would be considered a sin. People who can teach, can serve in Sunday school; People who can sing can be

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part of church choir, people who can draw can use this talent to help in various activities and functions in the church.

### **Examples of responsibility:**

- In Matthew 25:14-30, Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the parable of the king who gave talents to his servants and went away and when he came back, he asked them how they treated these talents. The servants who used their talents and gained more talents were awarded and honoured by their master, however, the servant who didn't use his talent was rebuked and had no place with the king. Our Lord Jesus Christ gave each and every one of us talents; each according to their abilities. A responsible person would use their talents wisely in order to benefit themselves and the society. However, a lazy or careless person would not reach high levels in life because they would generally have a careless attitude.
- Another example of a responsible person in the church would be St. Monica, St. Augustine's mother. She was a responsible person and took it upon her shoulders to get her son to believe in Christ. She struggled for 20 years with him and he eventually left the sin and he became a bishop. If she said 'I don't care, it's his life', St Augustine would have never left the sin and we wouldn't have had such a great saint in the church.

### **Why does God want us to be responsible?**

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us complete freedom. With this freedom, we carry a responsibility to be able to use this freedom wisely. With this complete freedom we are allowed to do anything we want. However, not every action is suitable for a responsible person. As Christian people born in the church we carry a greater responsibility in our actions. For people around us it may be ok to do anything but we have a responsibility to be **a light that shines in the world** that the people may see us and glorify God in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

### **Conclusion:**

As Christians, we have to pray to God in order to help us become responsible people and get rid of any careless attitude we have. We should take things seriously in life in order to become successful people. As Our Lord Jesus Christ cares for us, we should care for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Glory is to God, forever. Amen.**