

We Are Accountable For “I”

By Kent Heaton

“Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin” (Deut. 24:16). The ‘Me’ bubble that pervades our world is the idea that no one is responsible for what they have done. In a paradox of accountability, responsibility for individual actions can be blamed on anything but the self-choice of personal action. “I am what I am because nature made me this way” or society bears the burden for making me the person I am. Parents are blamed, failed education is ridiculed and God is vilified as the reason for the way we live our lives. Everyone is innocent it seems. No one is guilty of his or her sins. The margin of responsibility shifts to blame others so that actions can be justified and morality can be judged by what feels good. Children are taught from an early age the world owes them a great debt of gratitude and they grow up expecting it.

Buried deep in the Law of Moses is the reality of God’s view of accountability. There were many laws in the covenant with Israel calling for the death penalty. Measures were in place to judge according to righteousness. In the final analysis, a person put to death for disobedience was guilty of what they had done by personal choice. The will of God clearly defined personal responsibility and judgment would be meted out against all those who sinned. This adjudication would be according to what the individual had done. If a father sinned, they would be punished. The same judgment would be carried out against a son who sinned. The son would be punished, not the father. A person would be put to death for their own sin. This law has not changed.

The Law of Moses was not the first time the law of personal judgment was established. This law began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were each held accountable for their sins. Eve received the heavier judgment because she was deceived; not the man. Every story in the Bible is the retelling of the personal judgment inflicted upon the individual for their sin. As the day of judgment looms ahead of all men we face the same kind of judgment. Every man that dies will stand before the Lord and face God for the sins he or she has committed. There will be no appeal system to shift blame on parents, society, the church or the Lord Himself. All men stand before God bare and naked with the actions of life determining their innocence or guilt. If a person is lost and condemned to eternal torment, they will know the judgement is true and righteous. Parents will not be punished for the sins of their children. Unfaithful church members cannot blame the elders, the preacher, the Bible class teacher or fellow members for being lost. The unrighteous will not blame society, the government, or the passions of the flesh because they will know the responsibility of obedience was an individual choice. There will be no internet to blame. Nothing will be blamed but self.

A great surprise awaits the masses that live life blaming others for their misfortunes. There will be no arguments in the grave. Death will immediately seal the knowledge of truth that every person will bear his or her own sin. The joy of salvation is hearing the words of grace from the Father who says, “Well done good and faithful servant.” These people knew that life was about the choices they made in serving God. They did not blame others. They begged for mercy and walked in the paths of righteousness.

Finest Hour

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (Eph. 4:29). To appreciate the power of the tongue, we need only picture the people of Great Britain in the early days of World War II, gathered in their living rooms listening to Prime Minister Winston Churchill deliver one of the most stirring speeches of the war: “The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us...Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say: ‘This was their finest hour.’” The heroism so evident in Britain’s battle against Nazi Germany may have lain dormant in the British people had not Churchill’s words helped galvanize their will. Taming the tongue so it can accomplish great good

is crucial not only for wartime leaders, but for us in the everyday course of our walk with Christ.
(From Bible Illustrator)

10 Things to Remember:

1. The past cannot be changed.
2. Opinions don't define reality
3. Everyone's journey is different.
4. Judgments are a confession of character.
5. Over thinking will lead to sadness.
6. Happiness is found within not without.
7. Smiles are contagious.
8. Kindness is free.
9. You only fail if you quit.
10. What goes around comes around.

A Moments Wisdom

--Wisdom is knowing what to do next; skill is knowing how to do it; virtue is actually doing it.

--Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but even more have been fallen by the edge of the tongue.

--Ignorance is not necessarily the source of our troubles. It is not knowing when we are ignorant that causes most of our problems.

--As a blossom cannot tell what becomes of its scent as it wafts away on the breeze, so a man cannot tell what becomes of his example that rolls away from him in the presence of others.

--Why do we admire patience in the driver behind us, but not in the one ahead of us?

--Perhaps the most valuable result of education is the ability to make yourself do the things you have to do when they ought to be done, whether you like it or not.

--The mechanics of a good apology are not difficult to understand. A bad apology is cagey and ungenerous, an attempt to avoid taking full responsibility. Good apologies are about stepping up.

--Don't wish it was easier; wish you had more strength. Don't wish for less problems; wish for more patience. Don't wish for less challenges; wish for more wisdom.

--If a man has an empty stomach, it refuses to let him rest until he fills it up. Too bad an empty head doesn't do the same.

--A rumor is as hard to un-spread as butter.

--The fire you kindle for an enemy often burns you more than him.

--Hate is like acid. It can destroy the vessel in which it is stored as well as the object upon which it is poured.

--Some people build walls against the winds of change; others build windmills.

--Covetousness makes a man miserable, because riches are not means to make a man happy.
(Jeremy Taylor, Holy Living, 1650)

--We are always making an offering. If we do not give to God, we give to the devil. It is a continuous process going on all the time. (Vance Havner)

--There are two loves from which all good and truth come: love for God and love for the neighbor. And, there are two loves from which all evil and falsehood come: love of self and love of the world.

--The sins that we should hate most are not those of our neighbor but our own. These are the only sins over which God has given us immediate power. (Raphael Simon, Hammer and Fire, 1959)

--In a day of tranquilizers, we are likely to make an aspirin pill of religion. The word of God is not a lullaby to put us to sleep but a reveille to wake us up. (Vance Havner)