

Accepting responsibility

Principle –Responsible children become responsible adults.

Key Scripture:

Galatians 6:8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature **will reap** destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit **will reap** eternal life.

1 Peter 2:11-12 Dear friends, I urge you, as **aliens** and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Matthew 6:3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your **left hand** know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and **broad** is the road that leads to **destruction**, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--**continue to work out** your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Comment

Scripture teaches us that if we sow to please God, we will reap eternal benefits. If we sow to please self, we will reap destruction. This applies to every aspect of our lives both private and public. There will only be a few who choose God's way of living, and we will feel like we are the "odd ones out" in this world. We are each instructed to take responsibility for the choices we make, including a personal responsibility for discerning God's will for our lives.

Application in daily life??

- ♦ Life is about choices and their consequences! Our children need to develop a personal accountability to God for thoughts and actions that are within their control – both when they are supervised, and more importantly, when unsupervised.
- ♦ Teach our children how to make informed choices. Explain the likely consequences of both good and bad choices and use real examples of these that they can relate to. Give equal respect to both sorts of examples and don't gloat over the downfall of others. Rather point out that they have succumbed to some of the temptations/poor choices we all face in life.
- ♦ Keep the focus for righteous living on pleasing God, rather than on doing it because Dad/Mum say so! This helps develop a God-focussed conscience rather than a people-pleasing one.
- ♦ Give our children opportunities to make choices appropriate to their age, and when we do, let them be free to make that choice. If they ask for your input, give it to them as non-judgemental advice. Then let them choose. If they choose something we disagree with – respect their choice and let the consequences speak for themselves.
- ♦ "Everyone else is doing it" does not wash with God. Teach our children the perils of trying to be like the "world" so that we feel accepted. Rather we are to discern God's will in each situation.

Our example???. Do we teach our children that we each have a level of accountability before God for our actions and their consequences –both public and private.