

Taking Responsibility

Genesis 3:12 said, *"And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat."* Adam and Eve did everything they could to avoid taking responsibility for their sin. Adam blamed his wife: *"She gave me of the tree."* He even pointed an accusing finger at God, saying it was *"the woman whom thou gavest me."* Eve blamed the serpent saying, *"The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."* God ignored their excuses and announced the judgment they would face as consequences for their disobedience.

One of the problems of mankind is that we refuse to take responsibility for our actions. We want to blame others for our problems: our parents did not raise us well; our friends let us down; our preacher was not dynamic enough; our children are rebellious; our employer is not sensitive enough; our spouse is not understanding; there is not enough time in the day ... the excuses are plentiful! Yet forgiveness and restoration cannot happen until we accept full responsibility for our actions.

An obvious indication that we have not genuinely repented is that we make excuses for our sinful behavior. Nowhere in scripture does God excuse one person's sin because of someone else's actions. If we make a habit of blaming others for our failures, we will not reach a point of honest repentance. God will hold us accountable for our own actions, not others (2 Corinthians 5:10). Strive always to acknowledge and take responsibility for your own sins. It will free you to be truly forgiven by God (Colossians 2:13) and to press on to spiritual maturity (Hebrews 6:1).

Adapted From Richard Blackaby