

Doing The Hard Things

There was a book written by Alex and Brett Harris in 2016 called, "Do Hard Things." The purpose of this book is to inspire young people that their adolescence does not excuse responsibility; that they in fact need to continue growing and as the title says do the hard things. While this book is good for the youth, it is very applicable to people of all ages. We live in a day and age where personal responsibility is constantly evaded, especially things become difficult. However, as a Christian I cannot be like worldly people and avoid responsibility.

First, consider the commands that have been given for everyday Christians. When we look at Galatians 6:1, we have a command that when someone is weak, "You who are spiritual restore such a one ..." We have a responsibility to take care of our weak brothers and sisters in Christ. We can also look at passages such as Mark 16:16 or Mathew 28:19 where we are told to go into the world and preach the word. God could have chosen any other method to ensure that His message would be delivered to all the world; however, He gave us the responsibility to spread the message. Let us not forget also that we have the everyday responsibility of being faithful, like it says in James 4:7: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Moreover, we each have responsibilities that cater more specifically. Parents have the responsibility to "train up a child in the way he should go ..." (Proverbs 22:6). Wives are to fill the role of being in submission to their husband as it talks about in Ephesians 5. Men have one of the oldest commands in scripture in Genesis 2:15: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work and to keep it." Children likewise are commanded to obey their parents as we can tell from Ephesians 6:1.

Even more, though, there are responsibilities that are truly difficult, but we still have to abide by them. Consider the matter of withdrawal. We have the example of 1 Corinthians 5 where Paul tells the brethren to deliver to Satan the man who has his father's wife. That is merely one example, but it is taken to a completely different level when it is someone in our family whom we love that we must withdraw from. Most of us, if not all, have family that, despite the warnings we give, will not submit to God. Paul gives the command through inspiration in 2 Thessalonians 3:6: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us." No one wants to go through this ordeal, but it must be done. We have to remember that this is not out of spite, but we must separate ourselves to protect our own faith as well as to hopefully cause the unfaithful to see the need for salvation.

In summary, none of us can say that we are without responsibility. No matter as a child, young adult, father, I have certain responsibilities that I must adhere to. There are even more responsibilities when we become a follower of Christ. These responsibilities are not always easy, however. There will be times that we will not care for, and be greatly sorrowful for what must be done; but despite that, we have to uphold these

responsibilities. The life of a Christian is not meant to be easy, but the reward for upholding what is asked of us is far greater than anything we have to endure in our lives on this earth.

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