

Article 154: A Few Questions About Responsibility -1

You know exactly what someone means when they speak of responsibility, especially when they tell you to “take responsibility for your actions”. You know what that means, ...don’t you? ...after all, since you were a little child, your parents constantly told you to act like a responsible little girl ...or boy, ...so you know what “being responsible” is all about, ...or do you? Maybe you hear the word responsibility and use it constantly ...and irresponsibly. For instance, is “take responsibility for your actions” the same as “take responsibility for your thoughts”? Of course not! Your thoughts are your own ...while your actions may directly affect others, so responsibility must be different, ...right? How about, “take responsibility for your emotions,” ...is this the same? After all, your emotions are yours ...but your emotional responses may seriously affect others, so maybe emotional responsibility is entirely different, ...or not! Maybe there is only one responsibility, ...then, on second thought, maybe responsibility comes packaged in many different forms ...and you don’t really know what you or another is saying when speaking of responsibility, ...well, let’s see.

What is your definition of responsibility? ...or what do you mean when you speak of being responsible for someone? ...when speaking of someone being responsible for you? ...when speaking of being responsible for yourself? How will responsibility interact in an open, honest, intimate (ohi) relationship? How do intimacy and responsibility relate? Are you willing to be responsible for another in an ohi relationship? If not, how will that affect the relationship? If so, what does that look like in an ohi relationship? Can you be intimate and not be responsible with, for, or to another? Describe that? What are you concealing behind responsibility? When you see people hurting themselves or others, (in one way or another), can you act responsibly and not be critical? How? If you criticize that person, will you destroy or protect responsibility? Is responsibility judgmental? If you do not want to judge, can you act responsibly with another? How?

Think about these questions or, more important, discuss them with another, with a group, or with an intimate, but don’t just give a Forever Living answer and assume you have the problem of responsibility, if it is a problem, under control, because, no matter what you “now” think you believe, if the question of responsibility~yours or another’s~arises, you will quickly revert to your old beliefs and ways. Acting responsibly takes a strong desire and practice. But you probably think that “being responsible” is merely “owning up to your thoughts, emotions, words, and behaviors” ...as you were taught in kindergarten.” Don’t hurt your little sister!” “Stop blowing bubbles in your milk.” “Pick up your toys!” “Feed the puppy. Remember, you said you would care for him, ...you promised. Can’t you be responsible and keep your promises?” Do you remember hearing these

things? The only difference between then and now is the size of your sister and toys ...and your promises, ...but you probably want to blow bubbles in your milk ...even if you don't do it. Has your responsibility grown larger? Can you be a little responsible or partially responsible ...and still be responsible? How do control and responsibility relate? Can you be responsible for another without controlling? How? And if you do control, are you being responsible? Explain.

How do control, being critical, and being demanding relate to being responsible for yourself? If you can be responsible to or for yourself without controlling, being critical, and being demanding, why not act the same with others? Can you be responsible to and for everyone in your life? How? If you cannot be responsible to or for everyone, ...isn't that irresponsible? How are you failing to be responsible to everyone in your life? If you set the rules and enforce them, ...are you being responsible? If God sets the rules and enforces them ...is God being responsible? How does responsibility relate to free will? If you do not have free will, can you be responsible ...and be judged? And if you do have free will, can you be judged responsible?

How do love and responsibility relate? How can you love another and be responsible for that individual? If someone confronts you, ...are they being responsible? (A clue: what does confront mean?) Are you being responsible in your own life? How are you not being responsible for yourself and life? Why? What are you afraid of? Who are you fearful of?

We could write several more pages of questions, but will conclude with just a few more questions. If you teach or heal others, are you responsible for them? If you won't teach them or heal them, maybe because you feel it is not your responsibility to do so, ...are you, in that, being responsible? Responsibility is beginning to pinch, ...isn't it? Can you be responsible without being limited or restricted? In what ways do you avoid being responsible and acting responsibly by accusing others? ...or do you? Must you be "all-powerful" before acting with full responsibility? Is that being responsible? Can you be responsible to and for someone you do not like? Or, must you like a person first? Is that responsible? Is loving some people and not loving others responsible? In this, are you irresponsible to both? ...to yourself?

We'll ask again, in your life, is it possible to be responsible for everyone? What does this mean? Now that you have responsibility all figured out, consider this: Isn't responsibility founded entirely on guilt? Maybe you should start at the beginning of this Article and reconsider your previous answers, in the meantime, pick up your socks, put the toilet seat down, stop hanging your personal "things" on the shower curtain rod, and...

Be Responsible...



Stop blowing bubbles in your milk!

Oh, go ahead, ...we won't tell.