

# Responsibility: Something we are supposed to do.



Responsibility is not a popular word today. It seems that many, in the world today, even Christians, blame someone else for their problems, sins, and not fulfilling their responsibilities. We tend to rationalize why we don't do what we are supposed to do. But, this isn't new. The first humans did the very same thing - Eve blamed the snake and Adam blamed her, and God when they disobeyed the Lord's order. They were supposed to not eat of one tree in the garden, and they did. Responsibility is, really, very closely related to obedience. The Lord our God wants our obedience; He wants us to take responsibility for what He has commanded us to do. Galatians 6:5 states that we are to carry our own load - that is to take responsibility for what belongs to us.

There are two aspects to responsibility in marriage. The first is taking responsibility *for* the marriage. We made wedding vows; promises of what we will do to protect, grow, and nourish our marriage relationship. We are *supposed* to work together as a team to meet the challenges of life. We are *supposed* to build each other up and help each other grow in the Lord. We are *supposed* to connect and grow in our intimacy. We are *supposed* to guard our marriage and protect it from intrusions. We are *supposed* to love our spouse - to give ourselves up for our spouse (1John 3:16).

There is also responsibility within the marriage. The things we have to do to function as a couple and a family - roles and responsibilities for us as a couple. Often, this means the husband goes to work and provides financially and the wife basically does everything else. The husband may say he is the leader of his family, but he has abdicated leadership when he doesn't take responsibility for his home. In Genesis 2:15-17, God took the man and put him in the garden to work it and take care of it. The woman was not yet created and the man was responsible for *everything*. He was also responsible for obeying God's command to not eat of one certain tree. Then, in Genesis 2:18-25, God created the woman as a helper for the man. She was to help him fulfill the responsibilities God gave him. Husbands, the household is ALL your responsibility - everything! Wives, your responsibility is to help him so that between the two of you, you accomplish what God has charged you to do.

Are you fulfilling your responsibilities *to* and *within* your marriage? Do you actively protect your marriage and connect with your spouse? Do you *love* your spouse as the Lord has commanded you to love him or her? Do you work *together* to fulfill the responsibilities and challenges of life? Raising your children *together*? Please prayerfully consider what you have read here. Seek the Lord as you work *together* with your spouse.

## **Helpful Resources:** *Fortified Marriages Resource page: [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)*

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples work together to meet the responsibilities they have in life.

### **Articles to check out:**

*Responsibilities in Marriage* by Dewey Wilson - [strongmarriages.com](http://strongmarriages.com)

*How to Take Responsibility in a Relationship: 10 Practical Ways* By Kaida Hollister - [www.marriage.com](http://www.marriage.com)

*What Does the Bible Say about Responsibility?* By Clarence L. Haynes JR. - [www.christianity.com](http://www.christianity.com)