ARTICLE

A SPIRITUALLY RESPONSIBLE MAN

Introduction

C. S. Lewis once remarked, *"There is no problem with the Statue of Liberty on the east coast of the USA, just as long as there is also a Statue of Responsibility on the west coast of the USA."*

We all desire the advantages of freedom, to receive, to be served and to enjoy the benefits of liberty. Yet with freedom comes responsibility. It is sobering to realise that through my life and conduct, I have a duty to live in such a way that what I take for granted can also be experienced by others.

In fact, many cultures and languages lack a word or even a concept for 'responsibility.' But the Scriptures place this calling squarely upon every believer. God created us as His representatives on earth (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:15; Hebrews 2) and entrusted us with specific tasks. Responsibility is therefore not optional; it is a divine commission.

The cost of responsibility

Assuming responsibility always costs something. It requires us to give time, money and energy to improve the lives of others. It calls us to pray not only for ourselves but for those around us. It challenges us to crucify selfish desires and put others first, following the example of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Biblical examples of responsible men

- **Daniel** – From his position in government, Daniel lived with integrity, prayed for his people, and sought God's kingdom above all. His intercession for the Jewish people reflected the very prayer of Christ: *"Let Your kingdom come."*
- **Samuel** – He declared that neglecting prayer for others would be sinning against God (1 Samuel 12:23). His sense of duty went beyond personal devotion to national intercession.
- **Joshua** – As the leader of Israel, he declared, *"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"* (Joshua 24:15), ensuring that his household walked in faithfulness.
- **Boaz** – By marrying Ruth, Boaz fulfilled the role of kinsman-redeemer, showing responsibility to his family and his community (Ruth 3:13).

These men demonstrate that true responsibility combines integrity, prayer, leadership and obedience to God.

Ten marks of a spiritually responsible man

1. Provides for his family - A responsible man prioritises his household, ensuring their needs are met and their well-being safeguarded.
2. Loves his wife - God calls a husband to love, guide, protect and support his wife so that she grows into her full potential (Ephesians 5:25).
3. Leads his children - A responsible father provides, protects, teaches, disciplines and raises children as 'godly offspring' (Malachi 2:15; Ephesians 6:4).
4. Serves as priest for his family - He stands before God in prayer for his household, covering them spiritually.
5. Intercedes for the world - He prays for the poor, the oppressed, the nation's leaders and the salvation of the lost.
6. Lives with integrity - He applies biblical principles in daily life, refusing to tolerate or practise injustice.
7. Owns his faults - A responsible man confesses sin, repents, makes amends and extends forgiveness to others.
8. Listens to and obeys God - He makes time to hear God's voice and acts on what God commands.
9. Defends the vulnerable - He speaks out and acts on behalf of the poor, the orphaned and the marginalised.
10. Walks in humility - He does not seek human praise or recognition but considers himself the least of all God's people (Ephesians 3:8; 1 Timothy 1:15-16). Titles, popularity and honours matter less to him than obeying God and doing His will.

Conclusion

Responsibility is not a burden to be avoided but a sacred trust from God. A spiritually responsible man does not live for himself but for God and for others. He reflects Christ's sacrificial love in his family, his community and his world.

Though imperfect, he confesses his sins, depends on God's grace and presses forward in obedience. This is the kind of man God uses, one who shoulders responsibility with humility, integrity and courage.

Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2).