

“GUILT, DENIAL & RESPONSIBILITY”

CONSIDER THE FINAL OUTCOME:

- Stories that Jesus told to help us look at the final outcome (Matt: 25).
- We will all give an account for our life (1Cor. 3:7-15; 2Cor. 5:6-10).
 - Those who have refused to believe in Jesus will be judged and eternally condemned (Rev. 20:11-15).
 - Those who have believed will give an account of what they did with what they have received in Christ.
 - God loves us the same at all times. Our sins are forgiven.
 - But we are to live in such a way to be pleasing to Him (2Cor. 5:9; Eph. 5:10, 17; 1Thess. 2:4).
 - *We need to live a life responsible to God!*
- Responsibility = Moral, legal or mental accountability; able to answer for one's conduct or actions; able to choose for oneself between right and wrong; ***actively seeking to please God with your life*** (Phil. 2:12-13).
- Guilt = The state of one who has committed an offense; feeling of culpability; ***awareness that you are not living in such a way that pleases God.***
- Denial = Refusal to admit the truth or reality; denying the existence of a problem or reality; ***suppressing or ignoring the guilt of failed responsibility before God.***

RESPONSIBILITY PRODUCES FREEDOM:

- Freedom from guilt, confusion, frustration, aimlessness, & regret.
- Freedom from repetitive, futile, destructive cycles.
- A truly clear conscience
- Clarity of purpose and direction.
- How do you live responsible to God?
 - Take full responsibility for the pain, failures & brokenness in your life.

- Not all of it is your fault, but you can only start healing when you stop blaming and/or ignoring.
- God is able and willing to heal you.
- Begin to sincerely seek how you can **please** God (Eph. 5:10).
 - Refuse to use other's behavior as an excuse for your reaction.
 - Look to the truth of God's Word for guidance.
 - Face your sins through the eyes of His love for you.
 - Recognize your need for the power of the Holy Spirit to obey.

ENTICED BY DENIAL:

- The various deceptive thought patterns of denial.
 - I don't have a problem.
 - If I ignore the problem it will go away.
 - I will do my part if they are willing to do their part.
 - This is the way I am or this is the way it has always been.
- Why do we use denial?
 - Short term relief.
 - Dodging the guilt of our wrong behaviors and responses.
 - Avoiding the responsibility to conform to God's Word (personal change).
- Denial always:
 - Damages and destroys relationships;
 - Robs you of experiencing God's transforming power.

CHOOSE FREEDOM:

- The road of responsibility to God offers freedom to change.
- The road of responsibility to God offers freedom from guilt.
- The road of responsibility to God offers healed & healthy relationships.
- The road of responsibility to God offers a future with few regrets.
- The road of responsibility to God offers confidence before God.
- The road of responsibility offers God's eternal rewards.