

ON THE FRONTIER

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel”

If You're Wrong - Admit It

by Linus A. Mathis III

A growing lack of responsibility is being evidenced by a refusal to admit shortcoming or error. It has become common for those in positions of responsibility to shift the blame to others. Circumstance is cited as reasonable cause for questionable ethics and immoral conduct. Irresponsibility has become a socially acceptable condition. We have been seeking immunity from accountability for our nations highest servant! What precedents are we setting?

To say that the importance of one's office negates swift reprisal for unlawful conduct, is to insult the intelligence. If anything, the greater the austerity of an individual's pledge, the greater the demand for honesty and integrity. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." {Luke 16:10}

The procedures of those in trusted positions often deny this great truth. Either modern man is ignorant of this principle, or arrogance has deluded him into thinking that he can improve upon the Word of God. I suppose that it's fashionable to consider the Bible passé, but I wouldn't want to be the one to "upgrade" God. Would you? That being the case, if you are wrong admit it! No circumstance, no position held, no amount of personal obligation or any other factor, will

make you exempt. A lie is sin and NEVER acceptable (Ephesians 4:25; Leviticus 19:11; Proverbs 14:5; Psalms 5:6). The same is true for extra-marital affairs, stealing, evil speaking and a host of other fleshly works (Galatians 5:19-21). Though man might tout his prominence, God will have the last word (Galatians 6:7-10).

Today, sin is called sickness. As a result, therapy is advised when repentance is in order. Contemporary thinking credits an individual's violent behavior to his environment. Sometimes we blame his dysfunctional family. God's Word calls drunkenness, hate, anger, rape and murder, works of the flesh. Cultural advantage, or lack of it, doesn't revise accountability. God holds man accountable for ALL of his actions. As long as sin is viewed as sickness, the remedy will be out of reach. Why? Because, a sick person is a hapless victim but a sinner is a willing player. When you accept responsibility for your errors, repent and ask forgiveness, you will be delivered.

The natural tendency for man is to make excuses for his actions. No one likes to admit being wrong. However, the consequences for failing to accept responsibility are devastating. One of the clearest Biblical examples is that of King Saul found in I Samuel 15. He; 1. Denied any guilt (vs.13); 2. Belittled the error (vs.15); 3. Claimed it was

"for a good reason" (vs.15); 4. Shifted the blame (vs.21); and 5. Reluctantly, admitted his guilt but still blamed others for his fear (vs.24). This cost him the kingdom (I Samuel 15:23) and ultimately his life (I Chronicles 10:13). He didn't like God's answers so he sought to the psychics, the 1-900 numbers, the "hookey-pooks." He rationalized his disobedience to God's Word. What a sad end for a man with so much potential.

Look at today's trends. Shallow excuses in the face of blatant guilt are commonplace as more and more people seek after psychic "guidance" (@ \$3.99 per minute). They aren't responsible, simply "victims" of circumstance. Or are they? You are in charge of your own life and responsible for what you do with it. Excuses only satisfy those who give them. Make it your practice to admit when you are wrong and apologize. "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." {Matthew 12:37}
