

CAN WE BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINS OF OTHERS – INCLUDING CHURCHES?, part 2 quotes

1) Social Responsibility

Being held accountable for the wrongs we involved others in — whether directly or indirectly — is called Social Responsibility.

“Make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way”. Hebrews 12:13.

“We are examples to others, and if we pursue a wrong course, and lead others away from the path of right, we shall be held accountable.” Signs of the Times, November 24, 1887.

2) If we do not share the truths we know with others, and they end up lost because of this, their blood is upon us!

“When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou has delivered thy soul.” Ezekiel 33:8-9 (see also Acts of the Apostles, p 393-394; Review and Herald, August 23, 1908; Christian Service, p 196; Testimonies, vol 6, p 331-332, vol 9, p 86-87; Signs of the Times, August 14, 1901).

3) We are held responsible for the medical missionary work we could have done for others (see Testimonies, vol 7, p 62-63).

4) We are held accountable for what effect our influence, words, actions, and impressions have upon others (see Patriarchs and Prophets, p 556; Medical Ministry, p 202-203; Signs of the Times, October 8, 1885).

"We are amid the perils of the last days, and in this evil time **everyone is held responsible by the Holy Spirit for his personal position before the church and the world.**" 1888 Materials, p 453.

"We lead others either upward to happiness and immortal life, or downward to sorrow and eternal death. And **if by our deeds we strengthen or force into activity the evil powers of those around us, we share their sin.**" Christ's Object Lessons, p 201.

5) We are held accountable for not being self-denying and self-sacrificing in "imparting to the most needy and suffering ones" blessings and encouragement--trying to relieve the needs of those who are worthy and do them good. But we can also be held accountable for giving money to those who are unworthy of our support!

"The indiscriminate almsgiving is often more injurious than helpful. It often encourages idleness and destroys self-respect." Manuscript Releases, vol 4, p 9-10.

6) We are held responsible for our wrong example, whether in eating, drinking, or living (see Temperance, p 71-72).

7) Ministers are held responsible for the moral and religious standing of their flock (see Patriarchs and Prophets, p 190 and 578).

8) Ministers will be "brought under condemnation with the people" if they do not warn those who are misusing God's tithe to stop (see Counsels on Stewardship, p 86-87 & 106).

(For further study on the tithe subject, please see our study on [The Issue of Tithe](#)).

9) Any in positions of responsibility who choose to follow their own way, "**are held responsible for the mistakes of those who are led astray by their example**" Review and Herald, September 14, 1905.

10) Parents are held responsible for the salvation and physical health of their children, and for giving correct lessons to them (see Notebook Leaflets, p 78; Review and Herald, December 24, 1889, September 10, 1895, September 15, 1904; Signs of the Times, February 9, 1882, August 23, 1899; Testimonies, vol 4, p 138).

11) Teachers and principals are held responsible for the foolish talking, jesting, joking, the low cheap talk, and the unruly spirit allowed to exist among and affect the youth (see E.G. White Biography, vol 4, p 310).

12) Teachers are held responsible for the children and youth under their guidance (see Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p 104).

13) If we agree to allow an unqualified teacher to guide our children and youth, then we are held responsible (see Manuscript Releases, vol 4, p 156-157).

14) If we see a brother or sister sin, and we do not bring it to their attention, then we are a sharer in their sin (see Leviticus 5:1, 19:17; Signs of the Times, November 24, 1881), and are also a sharer in any evil which might be caused because of their sin.

"Those who have too little courage to reprove wrong, or who through indolence or lack of interest make no earnest effort to purify the family or the church of God, are held accountable for the evil that may result from their neglect of duty. We are just as responsible for evils that we might have checked in others by exercise of parental or pastoral authority as if the acts had been our own." Patriarchs and Prophets, p 578 (see also Desire of Ages, p 441).

15) If we try to excuse sin we see in another, then we become a sharer in their guilt (see Signs of the Times, November 24, 1881).

16) If we ignore or become indifferent to sins we see in another, then we are held responsible for these sins!

"If wrongs are apparent among His people, and if the servants of God pass on indifferent to them, they virtually sustain and justify the sinner, **and are alike guilty and will just as surely receive the displeasure of God; for they will be made responsible for the sins of the guilty.**" Testimonies, vol 3, p 265-66.

17) If we do not give the trumpet the correct and certain sound of warning—including giving the names of the wicked when appropriate (see Manuscript Releases, vol 12, p 3-4; 2 Timothy 4:14-15; 1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 1:15, 2:17, 4:10)--then we will be held accountable for every soul that is lost because of our unfaithfulness (see Ezekiel 33:2-6; Youth's Instructor, December 21, 1893; Testimonies to Ministers, p 405).

18) If we allow any minister who is living in any known sin and refusing to repent, to stand in the sacred pulpit of our church and speak or minister to us, then we become a sharer in his sin (see Pamphlet #28, p 17; Series A#1b, p 23).

19) If we give our support, means, and blessings to any minister who is living in any known sin, or who is preaching any false doctrine, then we are guilty of supporting his sin and the spreading of his error, and we become a partaker of his evil deeds!

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God....If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed **is a partaker of his evil deeds.**" 2 John 9-11.

"There are fearful woes for those who preach the truth, but are not sanctified by it, and also for those who consent to receive and maintain the unsanctified to minister to them in word and doctrine." Testimonies, vol 1, p 261-262 (see also Testimonies, vol 2, p 552).

20) If we choose to sympathize with those who are in the wrong, comforting them in their wrongs instead of trying to help them repent and forsake them, then we are a sharer in their wrongs.

"There will be men and women who despise reproof and whose feelings will ever rise up against it. It is not pleasant to be told of our wrongs. In almost every case where reproof is necessary, there will be some who entirely overlook the fact that the Spirit of the Lord has been grieved and His cause reproached. These will pity those who deserved reproof, because personal feelings have been hurt. **All this unsanctified sympathy places the sympathizers where they are sharers in the guilt of the one reproved.** In nine cases out of ten if the one reproved had been left under a sense of his wrongs, he might have been helped to see them and thereby have been reformed." Testimonies, vol 3, p 359 (see also Testimonies, vol 1, p 212-213).

21) If we shield any criminal from the just punishment of his crime when we know them to be guilty — especially in the case of murder, then we are a partaker of their sin (see Bible Commentary, vol 2, p 999).

22) Those who sow dissension, bickering, suspicion, disunion and criticism among their brethren, will have the blood of every soul misled by these wrong impressions and unsanctified words--including even those souls that were misled after their death!

"The wrong impression made upon human minds may live long after those who made it are dead." Review and Herald, April 27, 1897 (vol 3, p 460) (see also Mind, Character, and Personality, vol 2, p 399).

23) If we sustain any one who is boastful, proud, or vain, then we are "held accountable by God for confirming him in a perilous delusion" Spalding and Magan Collection, p 333 (see also Testimonies, vol 2, p 181).

24) If we praise the unfaithful and flatter the unconsecrated, then we become sharers in their sin (see Testimonies, vol 3, p 88).

25) We become a sharer in the guilt of another if we take a hard, unadvised course against them.

“Suppose that one has erred, do not therefore thrust him into the dungeon of despair; do not pass him by with a harsh word, or with positive neglect. Let everyone who is charged with wrong have ample opportunity to explain himself, but do not bring him before a set of hard-hearted judges, who stand ready to magnify the wrong, and to pronounce condemnation. Do not take the testimony of one or two against him without thoroughly sifting that testimony. See whether the accuser is not, by his own unadvised course toward the accused, a sharer in his guilt, if guilt there be.” Signs of the Times, March 21, 1892.

26) If we are involved in any way with the making, distributing, selling, or the leading of others to drink liquor, then we are held accountable for all the sins caused by them while drunk! (see Review and Herald, May 22, 1892; Temperance p 28-29, 40-41; Ministry of Healing, p 341).

27) If we choose to vote for individuals, regardless of party affiliations, and they become elected, then we are held responsible for their sins committed while in office!

“We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political scheme....The people of God are not to vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, **they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office.**” Gospel Workers, p 391-392 (see also Fundamentals of Christian Education, p 475-486).

28) If we choose to vote for any proposed legislation which will lead others to break God's law, and it becomes law, then we are held responsible for all these sins committed (see Temperance, p 255).

29) "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." 2 Timothy 5:22.