



## *Taking Responsibility for Your Life #1 :: Let the Blames Begin* {Andy Stanley}

### INTRODUCTION

*Option A: Take responsibility.*

*Option B: Blame someone else.*

We'd like to think we have the strength of character to always choose option A. But more than likely, we default to option B. Taking responsibility for your life is no easy task; there are many factors stacked against you. So, what steps do you need to take to retire from the “blame game”?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some quirks that are easy to spot in other people's lives, but are difficult to spot in your own life?
2. “Our civil rights protect and promote irresponsibility.” Do you agree or disagree?
3. How does your irresponsibility affect those around you? Provide a recent example of how your irresponsibility affected someone else.
4. Read Genesis 1:27-29. Why would taking increased responsibility result in the need for fewer rules?
5. Read Genesis 3:8-13. Where there is blame, there is shame. What is your best strategy in the “blame game”? (How have you effectively avoided responsibility?)
6. What can you do this week to own your share of responsibility instead of focusing on the shortcomings of others?

### MOVING FORWARD

Although we were created for responsibility, there is something in all of us that wants to avoid it in some areas. As a result, our irresponsibility creates conflict—conflict with our families, friends, co-workers, even strangers. So this week, the challenge is to pay attention to our excuses, being sensitive to how we blame everyone else but ourselves, and asking:

Am I taking responsibility for my life . . . . . **Really?!?!**

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”  
Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

Genesis 3:12-13