

RESPONSIBILITY: ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE WORKPLACE

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Introduction

In this paper, I would like to talk about the value of responsibility through the following: (1) Meaning of responsibility; (2) Kinds of responsibility; (3) Responsibility and Work; (4) Responsibility and Maturity; (5) Responsibility and God; and (6) Responsibility and the Eucharist.

(1) Meaning of Responsibility

Basically, responsibility means that one is dependable and reliable in dispensing or attending to his/her assigned duties and given obligations. In this light, a responsible person is one who is morally awake, i.e., he truly knows what is right or wrong; what is to be done or to be avoided. But the problem here is: Is knowing doing? Socrates, during the Ancient time asserted that one can only claim he/she knows what he/she knows if he/she does what he/she knows about. Consequently, Socrates maintains that wisdom demands knowledge and virtue to be deemed synonymous.

As employees – regardless of your status and rank – you have the moral responsibility to fulfill in handling your assigned tasks, duties, and responsibilities.

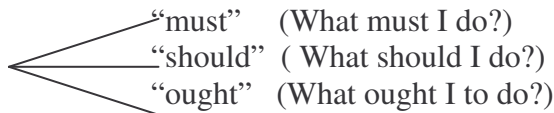
In another perspective, responsibility may mean “response – ability.” This means that a responsible person has the ability to choose his/her response in a given situation or in the tasks assigned to him. Truly responsible people don’t blame other people, circumstances, or conditions when things go wrong. They have that determination to accept failure and also a determination to fix or resolve such failure.

A responsible person, therefore, knows how to manage his life and he is powerfully driven to control any circumstance or condition that may deter him/her to master his/her life. A responsible person is one who never washes his hands, like Pontius Pilate, when something distasteful or undesirable come to the fore. He/she actively involves himself/herself in resolving a problem even when he/she is not the one who causes the occurrence of such problem. Thus, a responsible person is one who does not only see the problem, but more so, he sees the solution of the problem.

In view of the above, responsibility can be viewed as acronym:

- R** - eliable, shows the spirit of readiness;
 - E** - ndurance;
 - S** - ecurity, dependable;
 - P** - erformance assured;
 - O** - ther's oriented;
 - N** - o negative attitude/behavior;
 - S** - ervice driven;
 - I** - ntelligence is highly utilized (principal person);
 - B** - ody is readily coordinated;
 - "I"** - lived in the context of others;
 - L** - aziness has no place;
 - I** - ndustrious;
 - T** - rustworthy, thankful; and
 - Y** - ou: The best asset
 - to see (reality objectively)
 - to listen (patience, openness)
 - to feel (emotional strength)
 - to do (right/good)
 - to live (in truth/wisdom); and
- es (yes: self, others).

(2) Kinds of Responsibility



(3) Responsibility and Work

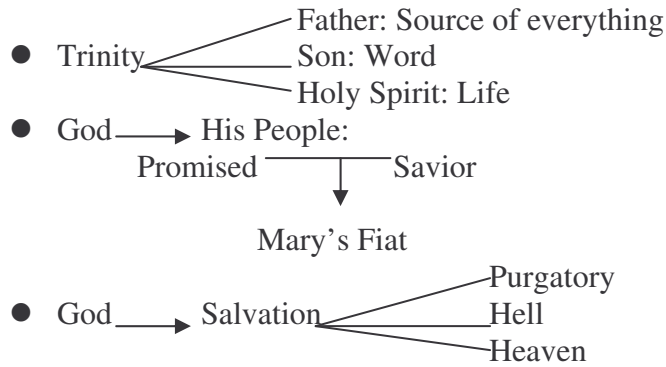
- Meaning of work
 - Any activity which is done only by humans. This means that work involves the whole human person
 - Mind (Thinking)
 - Heart (Passion)
 - Body (Muscle)
- Christian Implications of Work
 - Only those who work may eat (St. Paul).
 - The worker is more important than work.
 - Work is service to God and to mankind.

(4) Responsibility and Maturity

- Only mature people are qualified to become responsible.
- Maturity demands sacrifice and commitment (comitare: "to be sent in a mission")

- A mature person is one who is willing to suspend his enjoyment of pleasure and ready to undertake sacrifice. He is virtuous.

(5) Responsibility and God



(6) Responsibility and the Eucharist

