

THE DIVIDING LINE

Definition:

- The boundary between two areas
- A distinction marking the differences between two related things.

For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:14

Which one of the following do you identify with the most right now?

1. Taking responsibility for everything.
2. Blaming others for everything.
3. Recognizing what is out responsibility and what is not.

Taking Responsibility for everything

- You assume responsibility for things that have nothing to do with you.
- You think the happiness of others depends on you
- You misjudge the motives or intentions of others
- You will get weighed down by the pressure you put on yourself to be perfect or perform.
- You become overly sensitive and misunderstand others
- You will not be able to objectively see things that are flaws within yourself or areas that you truly need to change.
- We enable others to take advantage of us when we can't recognize what is truly our responsibility
- We want to please others and care what others think.
- We think our worth is wrapped up in what we do for others
- You will struggle with a lot of guilt and shame when you can't measure up because you've taken on too much.
- You take away other people's ability to take responsibility for themselves.

In what areas of your life do you see some of these things in your life?

Try not to take things personally. What a person says about you is a reflection of them not you.

Author unknown

When you ponder this quote what comes to mind?

Blaming Others for everything

- You become critical and see faults in everything others do.
- You see yourself as superior to others
- You lose the ability to objectively see the areas in your life that need changing.
- You become oblivious to how your words, thoughts and actions impact others
- When others try to correct you or tell you how you have negatively impacted them you turn it back onto them and how they are the problem.
- You deflect issues and ignore your responsibility
- You blame others for your poor behaviour or how you react to what is happening.
- People perceive you as irresponsible and tend not to trust you with things
- It causes you to see everything negativity and people often try to avoid you

In what areas of your life do you see some of these things in your life?

Marcus Smart: Everyone is responsible for their own actions. It's easy to point the finger at someone else, but a real man, a real woman, a real person knows when it's time to take the blame and when its time to take responsibility for their own actions.

What does it mean to take responsibility for your own actions?

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. Romans 14:12-13

How can blaming others for things we should take responsibility for lead to judging others?

Healing comes from taking responsibility - To realize that it is you - and no one else - that creates your thoughts, feelings and actions. - Author Unknown -

How can this realization become healing for you?

Recognizing what is your responsibility and what is not

- You become objective and assess each situation as it arises
- You can be honest with yourself and consider how your thoughts, words and actions have contributed to a specific situation.
- You take responsibility for your part of an issue and seek to make restitution. You are not afraid to apologize and ask for forgiveness
- You experience more safety in relationships because others know that you can be trusted to take ownership over your faults.
- You have a more balanced lifestyle, not taking on too much and recognizing your limits

- You can move on from situations with confidence knowing you have done your part to restore the relationship and leave the rest to the other person to take responsibility for
- You recognize where you end and others begin and find freedom in being yourself.

In what areas of your life do you see some of these things in your life?

THIS IS NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY

- Other people's words
- Other people's mistakes
- Other people's beliefs
- The consequences of other people's actions
- Other people's actions
- Other people's opinions
- Other people's ideals

THIS IS MY RESPONSIBILITY

- My words
- My behaviour
- My actions
- My efforts
- My mistakes
- My ideals
- The consequences of my actions

Take an honest look at your life and determine where you lean when it comes to responsibility.

Frank Outlaw-1977: Watch your thoughts, they become your words. Watch your words, they become your actions. Watch your actions they become your habits. Watch your habits they become your character. Watch your character , it becomes your destiny.

How have you seen this progression in your own life?

Proverbs 28:13: He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Confession brings things out of hiding into the light, how does this tie into taking responsibility for our thoughts and actions?

Activation

What's your responsibility?

Think back to a recent conflict that you had with someone.

How did you handle it?

Were you hurt?

Did you take it personally and feel like you were completely responsible?

Did you deflect and get defensive feeling like the other person was completely at fault?

Recognizing your default reaction in a situation will help you evaluate if you are being objective.

Now think of that same situation and consider the thoughts you were thinking, the words you spoke and the actions you took in response to the problem or confrontation.

Can you see what aspect you are responsible for and which one you are not. Is there anything you need to do to take responsibility for your part in the issue?

3 Keys to Remember

1. Step back and look at each situation and objectively consider what your part in the situation is.
2. Knowing the dividing line will help you know who you truly are, your limitations, your capacity and help you live a more balanced life.
3. When on the receiving end of others accusations if you know what was your responsibility you will be able to not take their words to heart and be able to move forward with peace.

Are you clear on where your dividing line is?