

Wise Up

Responsibility Towards Others

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Part 6



1. We are responsible for being _____

Proverbs 3:27 "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." (ESV=English Standard Version)

Proverbs 14:31 "Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him." (ESV)

Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (ESV)

2. We are responsible for having _____

Proverbs 11:1 "The LORD detests the use of dishonest scales, but he delights in accurate weights." (NLT=New Living Translation)

Proverbs 16:28 "A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friend." (ESV)

3. We are responsible for giving mutual _____

Proverbs 17:17 "A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need." (NLT)

Proverbs 12:18 "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." (ESV)

Proverbs 12:25 "Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad." (ESV)

Proverbs 10:12 "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses." (ESV)

4. We are responsible for avoiding _____

Proverbs 30:33 "As the beating of cream yields butter and striking the nose causes bleeding, so stirring up anger causes quarrels." (NLT)

2 Timothy 3:1-5 "You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. ² For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. ³ They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. ⁴ They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. ⁵ They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!" (NLT)

5. We are responsible for rescuing those who can't

Proverbs 24:11 "Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter." (ESV)

Proverbs 24:12 "Don't excuse yourself by saying, 'Look, we didn't know.' For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve." (NLT)

Romans 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (ESV)

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Discussion Questions:

1. We've all heard the phrase to mind our own business. And in many cases, we should. Yet, it's easy to forget we have a responsibility towards one another. Do you think we've taken this too far? Do you think we have become so self-focused we ignore people around us?
2. Proverbs tell us to be helpful and generous. What do you think about this being a responsibility rather than an optional activity? How do we live this out in a practical way?
3. We have a responsibility to live lives with integrity and honesty. We owe people this. What are practical ways we have opportunity to practice this while others may not?
4. We have a responsibility to give mutual love and support to each other. Is this only for our inner circle of people or should we feel a sense of responsibility even to strangers? How does God give us opportunities for this?
5. We have a responsibility to avoid behaviors that harm. Do you think we've become blind to how our behavior negatively impacts others? How is this mindset loving rather than legalism?
6. We are responsible to rescue those who cannot rescue themselves. Read Proverbs 24 and discuss the implications of these verses. Where do we see people stumbling towards slaughter today? Where does our responsibility lie?

