

## OBEY GOD-DEFY TYRANTS #23

### **"The Demise of Responsibility"**

#### **Part 2**

#### **I. Introduction**

I want to continue tonight with Part 2 of our teaching on "The Demise of Responsibility". We began with some definitions...

#### **"Demise"**

**The end of something once considered valuable.**  
**Cambridge Dictionary**

#### **"Responsibility"**

**The state of being responsible, answerable, or accountable for something within one's own power, control or management.**  
**Dictionary.com**

#### **Review**

**The first demise of responsibility took place in the Garden of Eden with the sin of our first parents**, Adam and Eve, who broke God's commandment by partaking of the forbidden fruit. **God came and confronted them with a series of questions**, giving them opportunity to take responsibility for their sin—but instead they played the victim and blamed it on others...which sent creation into chaos and cost them their privileged place in the Garden of Eden.

#### **Adam and Eve's denial of responsibility brought about cultural chaos.**

Both sinned. Both were responsible. But tonight I want to look at how when a culture collapses, the primary responsibility for it lies with its men.

Here is a startling statement from an essay by the late, great...

#### **R.J. Rushdoony, "The Failure of Men", 1983**

**The failure of a culture is the failure of the men in it. A society cannot be vital and possessed of an on-going vigor if the men therein are marked by a loss of**

**faith, a retreat from responsibility, and an unwillingness to cope with personal problems.**

In his other writings, Rushdoony lays blame for culture failure upon the socialist political party, the media, and backslidden Pastors. But here he pins the *primary* responsibility for the troubles of the world upon the men.

### **R.J. Rushdoony**

**Our world-wide cultural crisis is rooted in the failure of men. The abdication of men from their responsibilities as husbands and fathers is having sad results in family life.**

Let me sum up what he is saying in my own words...

### **Theme**

**The primary responsibility for the condition of the culture rests upon the men in the culture.**

### **3 Points Tonight**

- **The biblical basis for the primary responsibility of men**
- **The effects of our failure on the present generation**
- **The pathway back to 'Paradise'**

## **II. The Demise of Responsibility**

### **A. The Biblical Basis for the Primary Responsibility of Men**

1. God created the man first.

### **Genesis 2:7**

**And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.**

- a. This is significant; the firstborn or the eldest always bears the primary responsibility for those who follow. More is expected of the eldest.

2. God gave the man responsibility to cultivate and guard the Garden; God gave His commandment regarding the 2 trees *to the man*.

#### **Genesis 2:15-17**

**Then *the Lord God took the man* and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. *And the Lord God commanded the man*, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."**

a. God gave the man these responsibilities before the woman was even created.

3. God gave the man the authority of "naming".

#### **Genesis 2:19**

**Out of the ground *the Lord God* formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and *brought them to Adam* to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.**

a. At this point, God creates woman, because 'it is not good the man be alone':

#### **Genesis 2:21-22**

**And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. *Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.***

#### **Matthew Henry**

**Eve was not taken out of Adam's head to top him, neither out of his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected by him, and near his heart to be loved by him.**

b. Man is given responsibility for care of the woman, and authority over her as expressed by giving her a name.

#### **Genesis 2:23**

**And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;**

**She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."**

**Gen 3:20**

**And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.**

c. Adam's authority over the woman was expressed by naming her; this is why in marriage, a woman allows her husband to give her a new name!

4. The point is that God gave the man the primary responsibility of taking care of the woman and protecting her from harm; but what happened when the serpent came on the scene?

**Genesis 3:1**

**Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. *And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"***

a. The subtlety of the serpent was to go around the authority of the man and engage the woman in a theological debate!

**Genesis 3:2-3**

***And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"***

b. Notice that the woman misquotes the commandment; God never said anything about not 'touching' the fruit; this proves the man failed in his responsibility to properly teach the woman the word of God.

**Genesis 3:4-5**

***Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."***

c. Then comes the most tragic verse in the Bible: the 'fall' of the human race; with one often overlooked detail.

**Genesis 3:6**

**So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. *She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.***

a. God made man first; He gave His commandment about the forbidden fruit to the man; He placed the man in authority over the woman and made the man responsible for her protection; but here the man stands silent and passive while the serpent seduces his wife!

b. There was an old joke with the question, “Where would men be without women?” And the answer was “Still in the Garden”. But now we know that’s wrong.

c. Dr. Larry Crabb called our first father’s sin “The Silence of Adam”...

**Dr. Larry Crabb, “The Silence of Adam”**

**We tend to blame Eve for getting us all into this present mess, but technically, Adam was responsible. Adam was standing right there the whole time that Eve was talking to the serpent. This knowledge sheds new light on just how responsible Adam was for what happened.**

d. Dr. Crabb sees Adam’s sin of silence and passivity as a prototype for the demise of responsibility in men through all the ages.

**Dr. Larry Crabb, “The Silence of Adam”**

**The root cause of masculine failure is Adam's silence in the garden. This silence, chronically repeated in the lives of millions of men, is an indication of the passivity of Adam, who was with Eve in the garden. He silently abdicated his responsibility for his wife, bringing chaotic disaster upon the whole race.**

5. The Bible bears witness to the fact that the man’s sin exceeded the sin of the woman because he had been given responsibility for the woman.

a. That’s why when God comes to the garden immediately after they sinned, He first calls out to the man. (Genesis 3:9)

b. The man’s sin exceeded the sin of the woman because he was not deceived...

**1 Timothy 2:13-14**

**For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.**

c. The Apostle Paul confirms the fact that Adam's sin was the greater sin:

**Romans 5:12,18**

**...through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men...through one man's offense judgment came to all men...**

6. It doesn't say 'through one woman sin entered the world'; it doesn't say 'through one woman's offense judgment came to all men'; yes, the woman sinned; but the sin of the man exceeded the sin of the woman because God had given him the greater responsibility; and also because the man carried the seed.

a. Adam's sin corrupted not only himself, but his 'seed', since all the future generations to come were to come from him.

7. When a generation of men fails in their responsibilities, the next generation is still affected; so what is the effect of our failure upon this present generation?

a. Actually, there are many. But I would like to look at one that is rather unique to our day; something so common in our culture crisis counselors have given it a name...

## **B. The 'Failure To Launch' Syndrome**

1. This term defines a generation of young men in their 20's and 30's who are not married, nor settled on a particular career, nor in many cases shown any initiative in doing so. Here are some online definitions...

### **Failure to launch Syndrome**

**A term used to describe young adults who do not venture out on their own when they reach adulthood. Individuals who have failure to launch syndrome struggle to leave their parents' or caregivers' home in order to begin their own lives.**

### **Failure to Launch**

An inability to leave home and support oneself, regardless of the underlying cause.

### **Sandstonecare.com**

It is defined by an inability to move through the transition into adulthood, usually occurring after high school during the “college years”. The individual appears stuck in a post-childhood, pre-adult stage. He or she cannot or is unable to move towards greater independence and self-realization.

### **Sandstonecare.com**

#### **Symptoms**

- Dropped out of school or declines in school performance
- Returned home after an attempt to live independently were unsuccessful
- Unemployed, underemployed or only minimally employed
- Provides little contribution to family or interpersonal relationships financially or emotionally
- Withdrawn or absent – secludes himself in his room or simply goes out to ‘party’

#### **Symptoms**

- Lacks motivation, direction or purpose – has no clear plan forward
- Lacks emotional range or expression – struggles to express wants, needs or fears
- Has no desire for greater independence or responsibilities
- Realizes something clearly is not working but does not know what it is

a. Sandstone says marijuana use often contributes to the failure to launch.

### **Sandstonecare.com**

Deep problems such as self-image, fear of failure, or avoidance of responsibility usually play a major role in why a kid ceases to move forward. Oftentimes, they turn to marijuana use to escape or mask these psychological struggles and eliminate the tension that stagnation can cause. Marijuana can become a sort of silent enabler for these individuals.

2. Today, we have millions of young men struggling with failure to launch who appear to be “stuck” or not maturing in an age appropriate way.

**Redmountainedona.com**

**America has a failure to launch problem. Strike that. America has an epidemic failure to launch problem. Coming into 2017, Millions of millennials (ages 18-29) are unsuccessful in their attempts at “leaving the nest” after high school.**

**Pew Research**

**The 2021 census revealed that 1 in 3 young adults, 18-34, live in their parent’s home!**

**Kiplinger Magazine**

**Young men are far more likely than young women to retreat to their childhood bedrooms, spending hours online or playing video games.**

3. In the U.S., failure to launch is also known as **Peter Pan syndrome**, after the famous story of the boy who never grows up.

**Peter Pan Syndrome**

**A popular psychology term describing young men who find it difficult to grow up. They often have challenges managing adult responsibilities and maintaining adult relationships.**

**AggieCatholic.com**

**Our problem today is that men are now conditioned to live in a state of permanent adolescence. They are not raised, coached, mentored, and taught to be men. They are just "guys". But women don't want to marry a "guy". They want a man.**

a. Actress Julie Klausner, writing in the Wall Street Journal, offered a common complaint among modern American women...

**WallStreetJournal.com**

**Actress Julie Klausner, “I Don’t Care About Your Band”**



**We are sick of hooking up with ‘guys’-males who are not men or boys but something in between. ‘Guys’ talk about Star Wars like it’s not a movie made for people half their age. A ‘guy’s’ idea of a perfect night is a hang-around with his bandmates or a trip to Vegas with his friends. They are more like the kids we babysat than the Dads who drove us home.**

4. Military veteran Ryan Michler now has a Christian ministry promoting biblical manhood at his website, [www.OrderofMan.com](http://www.OrderofMan.com) analyzes...

**Ryan Michler, OrderofMan.com**

**What we see in society today is a bunch of boys running around in men’s bodies. They’re doing just enough to get by at their job. They still mooch off mommy and daddy, and potentially still live at home. They expect their wives to go out into the workforce and do the work of men. They collect unemployment and other benefits they didn’t earn knowing full well they’re capable of putting their own food on the table.**

**Ryan Michler, OrderofMan.com**

**Then, they wonder why they don’t feel fulfilled or satisfied, or why people don’t take them seriously. It’s because you don’t even take yourself seriously. Why should anyone else? If you want to call yourself a man, lead yourself, serve yourself, then serve others.**

**Ryan Michler, OrderofMan.com**

**The problem is that society today says it’s okay you act like a lazy, immature, pathetic, mediocre, slob. So we don’t allow our children to fail and we reward them for simply showing up. We recite cute, little phrases like, “showing up is half the battle.” No, showing up is the ticket to entry. Nothing more, nothing less.**

5. The great C.S. Lewis, who died 60 years ago, foresaw the feminization of men and wrote about in his book...

**“The Abolition of Man”**

**C.S. Lewis bemoaned the educational system of his day that produced men he described as ‘trouser apes’, ‘urban blockheads’, and ‘men without chests’.**

**C.S. Lewis**

**In a sort of ghastly simplicity we remove the organ and demand the function.  
We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise.**

**C.S. Lewis**

**We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and  
then bid the geldings be fruitful.**

5. There are so many emasculated men in modern America that when a real man runs for office or preaches in a pulpit, he is accused of 'toxic masculinity' or being mean.

**Charles Spurgeon**

**Bold-hearted men are always called mean-spirited by cowards.**

6. I am being bold not mean when I tell you that we all need to take responsibility for raising up a generation that confines itself to a comfort zone.

**Dr. Jeffery Smith, Psychologist**

**Young adults view discomfort as poisonous, which limits them to living within a narrow comfort zone. Moreover, parents often enable their adult children by overprotecting them from the difficulties that are inherent to living an independent, functional, adult-lifestyle.**

- a. Young people can't grow up without dealing with discomfort!
- b. Here's a video clip from a "Hondo", a John Wayne western made in 1953:

**Video Clip**

**Swimming Lesson from "Hondo"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqqC1uk8KJI>

1:47

**Review**

**The primary responsibility for the care of the culture lies with man  
When men fail, a generation 'fails to launch'  
So how do we get back to the Garden?**

### III. Close: **We need to restore an understanding of biblical manhood!**

God created man to have the primary responsibility for the care of the culture in the Garden and the protection of his wife. It was a demise of responsibility of a man that brought about the 1<sup>st</sup> cultural crisis; History is repeating itself...

**R.J. Rushdoony**

**Our world-wide cultural crisis is rooted in the failure of men. The abdication of men from their responsibilities as husbands and fathers is having sad results in family life.**

**R.J. Rushdoony**

**In our time the crisis is past deferment. The time has come for men to ground themselves in the whole counsel of God, to be responsible, mature, and venturesome. There can be no resolution of our world crisis without a resolution of the crisis in male responsibility.**

**R.J. Rushdoony**

**To blame conspiracies, however real some may be, special problems, or the past, are all evasions if men do not assume their responsibilities today as a privilege and duty under God.**

**Dr. Larry Crabb**

**Man is responsible to confront chaos so that he may bring order to the situation. Man is responsible to be godly, and that means assuming responsibility for imparting order and light in every darkened situation.**

**Martyn Iles**

**Responsibility is tough. But men of history have gladly suffered and died doing all this. Today, we may not have all the same brute masculine challenges as our ancestors but we do have the main one—namely, the need for men who shoulder spiritual responsibility and gladly enlist in the battle of good versus evil.**

**Closing Prayer**

**Title**