

Stop Blaming Others **50** and Take Responsibility for Every Area of Your Life

It seems that many in our present society have been taught that everyone else is responsible for their wrongdoing. Some liberal explains that young girls have babies out of wedlock because they're poor. Others argue that violence on the streets is because people were raised in the wrong environment.

It's time for every individual to stop blaming someone else for his behavior and start taking responsibility for every area of his life. People do what they do because they choose to do it, not because they're poor or had to live in a certain neighborhood or environment.

When I was growing up, we lived in a two-room house—Mother, Daddy and all five children. We were poor, but we never used that as an excuse to steal, vandalize or commit some other crime. We were taught by our parents not to take things that belonged to others, not to use vulgar language or tell dirty jokes, etc. And we didn't do it, because we knew that, if our parents found out about it, we'd be strictly disciplined.

I can't imagine trying to explain to my father that I stole candy at the local grocery store because we were poor. To use an old Georgia expression, he would have "worn me out," then made me go to the local grocery store and

apologize to the man who owned the store and ask what I could do to repay him, such as sweep the floor or some other chore. This wouldn't happen more than about once in a young child's life, and he'd learn not to take things that don't belong to him.