

# Responsibility Reflects Character

## Three Keys to Accepting Responsibility

As a foundation for considering the essential elements of accepting responsibility, let's break out what BP Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg said:

### 1. Self-Examination

*"We are taking a hard look at ourselves, what we do and how we do it."*

The first step in accepting responsibility is to reflect on your action or decision. Before you can make anything right or apologize for a mistake, you have to have a clear understanding of where you went wrong.

### 2. Learning

*"What we learn will have implications for our ways of working, our strategy, and our governance."*

Once you have a clear idea of what went wrong, you must ask yourself what you learned as a result. If you experience a success, what led to it and how can you capitalize on this knowledge in the future? If you made a mistake, what kinds of actions or thinking got you into hot water? Are your priorities in the right order? Is your focus in the right place?

### 3. Change

*"BP will change as a result of this accident."*

Self-examination and learning by themselves are not enough. If we are serious about becoming someone who accepts responsibility for our actions and desire the benefits that come with it, we must also commit to and follow through with change. Continue what's working and change what isn't.

## A Good Place to Start

I want to strongly encourage you to commit from this point forward to accept 100% responsibility for your actions and decisions? If you're wondering where to start, here are some areas I believe are essential:

- Accept responsibility for where you find yourself today.
- Accept responsibility for the state of your marriage.
- Accept responsibility for your children.
- Accept responsibility for the state of your other relationships.

**If you aspire to be a leader in your personal and professional life, begin by accepting full responsibility for everything you undertake and never pass the buck when things go wrong.**

*About the Author: Todd Smith is a successful entrepreneur of 30 years and founder of Little Things Matter.*