

# PUTTING YOUR PAST IN ITS PLACE\*

## EXPLANATION:

	Innocent in Situation	Guilty in Situation
Responded Well	<p style="text-align: center;">Bucket #1: You were innocent in a past circumstance; you did not sin in response to being sinned against.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Example: Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; David in 1 Samuel 24; Joseph in Genesis 17-50</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bucket #3: You were guilty in a past circumstance; you responded by repenting from your sin.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Example: Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10</p>
Responded Poorly	<p style="text-align: center;">Bucket #2: You were innocent in a past circumstance; you sinned in response to being sinned against.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Example: Naomi, in Ruth 1:19-22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bucket #4: You were guilty in a past circumstance; you sinned in response and hardened your heart.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Example: Saul in 1 Samuel 13:1-13; 15:1-22</p>
<p>You may or may not be responsible for your past circumstance(s), but you are always responsible for how you choose to respond to it. Therefore, a poor response puts responsibility for those consequences on you.</p>		

## GOALS/RESPONSES:

	Innocent in Situation	Guilty in Situation
Responded Well	<p style="text-align: center;">I choose to return good for evil (suffer well)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Consider Romans 12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I see my sin and choose to confess and repent (next step: pursue reconciliation)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">→ Consider 2 Corinthians 7</p>
Responded Poorly	<p style="text-align: center;">I was a victim in the situation but I responded sinfully</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(mourn the sin against me and repent of my own sin; next step: humbly pursue reconciliation)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Consider James 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I have sinned but am not willing to confess/repent; I have a hardened heart</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(confess sin and repent; walk in brokenness; next step: humbly pursue reconciliation)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Consider Hebrews 12</p>

\* Adapted from Stephen Viars, *Putting Your Past in Its Place: Moving Forward in Freedom and Forgiveness* (Harvest House Publishers, 2011), 228.