

CAR – An Important Universal Principle

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“The principle of **Consequences-**A**ccountability-**R**esponsibility (CAR) represents a universal life-lesson that fosters integrity and success.”**

Consequence is a universal concept rooted in the natural principle of cause-and-effect. Everything that happens in life (a “cause”) leads to another thing (the “effect”) sooner or later. Can you imagine what would happen (the “effect”) if the sun did not rise on any given day? Or perhaps, what would happen if it rained everyday —non-stop— in your city or town? Or more personally, what would happen if everyone, and anyone, could do whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted, however they wanted, and for whatever reason they wanted?

In life consequences help to restore balance. Without consequences, there would be an imbalance, and imbalances lead to disorder and sometimes chaos. Similarly, with respect to us—people—our actions and deeds always have consequences. These consequences may be noticeable, or sometimes un-noticeable.

With respect to our actions and deeds, as a society (within a family, a neighborhood, a community, or across the country), consequences are typically enforced through a process of accountability. When we hold someone accountable, we are asking a person to answer for an action (their action) that has led to an impact or produced an outcome of some sort, and such outcome now calls for a response—the consequence.

Due to this strong connection between consequence and accountability, everyone bears a responsibility for the things they say and the things they do—actions and deeds. When we are responsible at a personal level (personal responsibility), at a family level (family responsibility), at a neighborhood or community level (community responsibility), and at a society level (societal responsibility), then we remain in tune with the consequences that can come with our actions and deeds. Responsibility at any level begins with responsibility at a personal level; and personal responsibility is best taught at an early age at home by parents and guardians.

Just as the sun rises and sets everyday on schedule, the rewards of personal responsibility, and indeed responsibility at all levels, rooted in accountability and consequences include integrity and success.

(Comments are welcome at ektimis.com)



About the Author



Niyi Taiwo is the founder of EKTIMIS and the lead editor for the [EKTIMIS eLibrary articles](#). He is a speaker and the author of several books, including the [EKTIMIS Top Ten Laws series](#). He is a continuous improvement expert with over 21 years of industry experience – operational, management and consulting. He has been studying the topic of respect since 2004. He holds an undergraduate degree from WPI and a master's degree from RPI. He is an organizational improvement and diversity consultant, a certified Lean Expert and an ASQ-certified Six Sigma Black Belt.