

Culpability vs. Accountability

I like to make a distinction between culpability and accountability. Our actions are for the most part predetermined by our genetic make-up, the circumstances of our lives, and the way our brains work. None of these factors are self-caused. Actually, nothing at all is self-caused. On the other hand, we still must be held accountable for our actions for the sake of our own growth and development, and in order to mitigate the negative effects of our actions on others. An extreme example of this would be a schizophrenic psychopath, who's brain was damaged from birth, not being held legally responsible, or "culpable," for his crimes due to mental incapacity. That psychopath still needs to be held "accountable" and needs to be incarcerated for the sake of the safety of others and also in his own best interests. We are all, in a manner of speaking, not technically responsible or culpable for our actions, as they were not self-caused, but we still must be held accountable. God understands this. We do not deserve God's love, nor do we deserve His chastisements. God loves us unconditionally because it is His nature to do so. He chastises and corrects us, not as objects of His wrath, but instead as the objects of His love.