The Responsibility Game

The game you play with your own life.

The responsibility game is a game that shows you are responsible (able to respond) to the world in a mature way. If you play the responsibility game often (but not always at first) you will find that people treat you with more respect and even more responsibility, which means you get treated more like a grown up, and less like a child. When you play the responsibility game your efforts will be better rewarded, and you mistakes, failures, and rebellions will be far less catastrophic to your freedom.

Shame - “I would be a nice person but I am just a “bad” kid.”
If you use labels as an excuse to behave badly, you are playing the “shame game” wallowing in self pity. This never improves the situation, and leaves you stagnant.

Blame - “I would be a better student if only my teacher was nicer.”
If your bad behaviour is someone else's “fault” then you are playing the “blame game”. This makes the situation even worse, and makes you a slave to someone else's behaviour.

Justify - “I would be good if only I had a bigger room.”
If your behaviour is conditional on your circumstances, you are playing the “justification game”. This behaviour blinds you to real truth and improvement.

Every time you find yourself playing something other than the “responsibility game” you are cheating yourself out of the maturity, and ownership of your own behaviour.

Every time you play the Shame, Blame, or Justify game take something away from yourself and put it in in a box for a month. Let it remind you of all the unintended losses that happen to us when we do not take responsibility for our own choices and behaviour. Remember being responsible does not mean never making mistakes or bad choices, it means owning them and accepting the consequences of them without shaming, blaming, or trying to justify them. One of the best feelings in world is getting to make choices, know that they are ours, and learning how to choose better and walk closer with G-D. Walking with G-D when we are young gives us a safe place to fail, and learn great things like responsibility.

Don’t cheat yourself.