

Spiritual Accountability

John Repass

Introduction - Ephesians 1:22,23, Hebrews 10:24,25, Matthew 18:20

I. DEFINING ACCOUNTABILITY - Webster's Collegiate Dictionary:

- Accountability: The quality or state of being accountable
- Accountable: 1. subject to giving an account; answerable
capable of being accounted for; explainable
- Account (vb) 1. to give a report on
2. to furnish a justifying analysis or explanation
- Accountant: 1. one that gives account or is accountable
- Spiritual accountability: “a willingness to explain my actions, to answer for my life, and to supply the reason why” - *Chuck Swindoll*

II. THE BIBLICAL BASIS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

A. ALL MEN ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD

1. The Unsaved I Pet 4:5

2. The Saved. Romans 14:12

a. What We Are Vertically Accountable specifically for:

1. Every careless word - Mt. 12:36

2. Every action and heart motive He brings to mind -
Rom.2:16

3. What we teach - Jas.3:1

4. Stewardship of our time, gifts, resources, our body - I
Cor.4:1,2

5. Faithfulness to opportunity - Mt.25:21

B. WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO MEN

1. To Those Spiritual Leaders Who Watch Our Souls - Heb.13:17, II Cor. 9:8

2. For sin against our brothers - Mt. 18:15-17; Why is sin against a brother so important that we would even risk relationships to confront sin?

a. For the sake of the man who has sinned.

b. Purity in The Body I Cor. 5:9-13

c. Unity in The Body John 17:21

3. For Any Trespass Gal.6:1,2

III. ADVANTAGES OF ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Protection

B. Achieving higher levels of service 2 Sam.23:37

C. Fellowship with like-minded people

D. Encouragement

E. Love and Acceptance and Closeness

IV. SOURCES OF ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Spiritual Leaders Heb. 13:17

B. Elders (Functional Elders Of Character I Tim 3)

C. Peers(one or more brothers, co-laborers, fellow soldiers) D.Small Groups (with or without a spiritual leader)

E. Shepherds: I Pet 5:2,3 Who feed us and care for our souls. F.Ministry Team: Pr. 9:7,8

V. DISCIPLEMAKING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Levels of Accountability

1. Unlimited Accountability

a.Open and Teachable - Pr.10:17 Prov. 18:2

b. EIGHT PRINCIPLES OF GIVING REPROOF

- (1) Balance Reproof With Love Col.3:14,
- (2) He Must Want The Help Gal.6:1
- (3) Be Willing To Help him - Prov.28:23
- (4) Find Out Why - Two Possible Reasons
 - (a)He's In rebellion against what he knows
 - (b)He Doesn't Know It's Wrong (INSTRUCT, OBSERVE, CRITIQUE!)
- (5) Get 3 Examples
- (6) Speak on the basis of impression rather than fact (ON Sins Of The Heart)"The impression I had was...
- (7) Evaluate His Behavior By the Word of God
 - that is the only basis of our authority. 2 Tim. 4:2
- (8) Be Concerned For The Other person's best interest
 - do not have anger or resentment in your heart.

c. SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONDING TO REPROOF

- (1) Thank him for the observation and for caring enough to mention it. Realize that he put your friendship on the line.
- (2) Don't defend yourself.
- (3) Don't point out any problem you have seen in his life. You may see some but wait for another time to talk about it.
- (4) Pray over it. Ask God to speak to you about it.
- (5) Search the Scriptures and pray over them as you wait for your emotions to cool down.
- (6) If there is validity to it, make a change. If you need help making the change, seek it out.

(7) Thank the Lord for His goodness to give you men who care enough to speak to you.

2. Limited Accountability

VI. WE CAN MAKE OURSELVES HORIZONTALLY ACCOUNTABLE (To Others)

- A. Any Goal for growth
- B. Personal purity
- C. A failing we are struggling to overcome
- D. Faithfulness Lk.16:10
- E. Availability Mt.4:19
- F. Teachableness Heb.5:8
- G. The basics I Tim.4:7

1. The Check Chart - I Tim.4:15 "Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all."

VII. FORMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- A. Man to Man -
- B. Accountability Groups
 - 1. With Co-laborers
 - 2. In A Men's Or Women's Bible Study Group
 - 3. Prayer and Share Group
 - 4. A Ministry Team Setting
 - 5. Individual Faithful Friends

VIII. PROBLEMS IN ACCOUNTABILITY

- A. What about pleasing men versus pleasing God?
- B. What about legalism?

IX. HOW TO GET STARTED IN ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Pre-requisites For Accountability

1. A Genuine Desire for Accountability on our part
2. honesty- (Integrity)
3. Openness - to input from others.

B. Take Action

1. Be accountable to yourself.
2. Keep a record of your progress by writing it down daily. Use the check chart if it helps you.
3. Ask the Lord for a man or men of like heart, mind, and vision to whom you can be accountable.
4. Consider the possible sources that you already have
5. Go explain what you have in mind and ask them to pray about it. Define the limits of the accountability that you are seeking.
6. Get together on a trial basis and see if it jells. If not don't force it.
7. Make sure there is acceptance of Responsibility by the ones we are going to be accountable to.
8. Get together on a regular basis and share how you are doing. Make it more than just sharing records. Share something from the Word together and pray together.
9. After doing this for a while, if enough trust develops, consider opening up your life to anything your friend(s) see in your life
10. Enjoy the blessings of being accountable to brothers or Sisters in Christ.

TOPICAL STUDY
REBUKE AND REPROOF

Pr. 9:7,8

Pr. 25:12

Pr. 28:23

Mt. 18:15-17

Lk. 17:3

Gal. 6:1-4

Eph. 4:31,32

I Tim. 5:1

I Tim. 5:20

2 Tim. 2:24, 2:25

2 Tim. 3:16,17

2 Tim. 4:2

Titus 1:13, 2:15

Heb. 12:15

Rev. 3:19

I Cor. 5:9-13 - Breaking Fellowship

Do Greek word definition studies on from Vines or Bullingers: “fornicator, covetous, idolater, railer, drunkard, extortioner”.



