

A Vision for Disciplemaking
Key Men's Conference

February 20-23, 2003

Accountability
Paul Drake

Accountability

Definition: Responsibility - Answerable - Subject
To be liable to
Having a duty or obligation
Under the authority or rule of another

JESUS MADE HIMSELF ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD.

"I seek not my own will but the will of Him who sent me." John 5:30

JESUS ALSO SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES:

"You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am." John 13:13

WE HAVE MORE THAN ONE ACCOUNTABILITY RELATIONSHIP:

parent/child husband/wife person/government
employee/employer friend/friend neighbor/neighbor

I SAY WHAT & TO WHOM I WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE.

Luke 12:41-48 is a good example.

Kinds of servant:

1. Faithful - rewarded
2. Tyrannical - cut in pieces
3. Negligent - heavy beating
4. Ignorant - light beating

SPIRITUALLY IN THE LORD;

"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities" Romans 13:1

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

"Submit yourselves, then, to God" James 4:7

ACCOUNTABILITY DISCUSSION

WHY SHOULD I MAKE MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE TO SOMEONE

WHO SHOULD I MAKE MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE TOO

WHAT SHOULD I MAKE MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE FOR

WHEN SHOULD WE MEET FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

WHERE SHOULD WE MEET FOR AN ACCOUNTABILITY SESSION

HOW SHOULD I APPROACH ACCOUNTABILITY

Chuck Swindoll's group would ask each other:

1. Have you been with a woman anywhere this past week that might be seen as compromising?
2. Have you exposed yourself to any sexually explicit material?
3. Have any of your financial dealings lacked integrity?
4. Have you spent adequate time in Bible study and prayer?
5. Have you given priority time to your family?
6. Have you fulfilled the mandates of your calling?
7. Have you just lied to me?

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BIBLICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

ALL ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD

"And the Lord God commanded the man"

Genesis 2:16,17

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17

Accountable to God

Matthew 12:35

Romans 3:19

Hebrews 4:13

"Each to give account to Christ"

2 Corinthians 5:10

ALSO ACCOUNTABLE TO MEN

Priests and Judges

Deuteronomy 17:10-13

Shepherd the flock of God

Acts 20:28

Submit to those who serve the saints

1 Corinthians 16:15, 16

Gave themselves to us in keeping with God's will

2 Corinthians 8:5

Those over you in the Lord

1 Thessalonians 5:12

Obey those who rule over you

Hebrews 13:7, 13

ALL ACCOUNTABLE TO CIVIL AUTHORITY

"Give to Ceasar that which is Ceasar's"

Matthew 22:21

Submit to the governing authorities

Romans 13:1-5

To be subject to rulers and authorities

Titus 3:1

Submit to every authority

1 Peter 2:13-17

*"And whatever you do, do it heartedly, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."
Colossians 3:23,24*

Why I don't like Accountability

Accountability strikes me as one of those words like vitamins, I know I need them and they're good for me, but I don't really like them. You may have your own reasons for not liking accountability, but in case you haven't thought about it, here's my list.

1. Accountability requires openness and transparency, but I'd rather stay private and hide. (Romans 15:1,2)
2. Accountability means someone else may find out what I'm really like inside and that scares me. As John Powell wrote, "Why am I afraid to tell you who I am? (You may not like me!)" (Ephesians 4:32)
3. Accountability means I'll be humbled when my in-character is known, but I want to protect my pride - my "innocent reputation" and I'm afraid to let it go. (James 5:16, Ephesians 4:25, Galatians 6:3)
4. Accountability is the other side of responsibility, and I don't want any more of that either. I'm interested in doing my own thing, finding an easier way, not a harder one. (Romans 14:19)
5. Accountability implies change and growth, but I want to stay comfortable. Change may bring challenges I don't want to deal with. (Hebrews 10:24)
6. Accountability means going deeper in a relationship, and I like keeping things light, fun, (and shallow). (1 Peter 4:8-10, Ephesians 5:21)

Here's the bottom line: I need accountability relationships for all the reasons I don't like them! God's Word and my own experience confirm for me I need the help of other Christians to live a life pleasing to God. (Colossians 3:12-14) God's plan is to use me as a tool of relationship to mold and shape my character, to make me more open, more humble, more responsible, more Christ-like. I don't need to like accountability, I just need to do it!

What is it? An accountability relationship is a mutual agreement between two or more individuals to observe, encourage, rebuke, and correct one another. (Galatians 6:1,2, II Timothy 3:16,17) The agreement may be limited to one issue or multiple issues, and be for a specific period of time or indefinitely.

How to get an accountability relationship.

1. Select an issue(s) - something of worth to you; an Issue which would make a real difference in your life if you actually did something about it.
2. Select a person(s) - someone who cares enough about you to want to see you succeed in the issue you select. (Romans 12:9-13)
3. Agree together on the nature of the issue, the change/growth desired, the standard to measure against, and the time to be observed.
4. Agree on the frequency of meeting to check progress and encourage (Hebrews 3:13) further growth or correction. The most helpful kind of accountability has regularity built in. Remember, you never stop doing anything; you only start doing something else (as a substitute). Choose wisely! Be encouraged, a good habit is as hard to break as a bad habit. (Philippians 1:4-6)

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ACCOUNTABILITY

RECOMMENDED READING

THE BIBLE

This is the primary source for all the answers to life from the author and creator Himself. We need to read it daily plus study, memories and meditate on portions that will be helpful to keep us in tune with Him and what He is doing in our lives so that we can experience the abundant life Jesus promised His followers. John 10

MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST

The Golden Book of Oswald Chambers "No book except the Bible has influenced my walk with Christ at such deep and maturing levels" Dr Richard C. Halverson

WILD AT HEART

"Deep in his heart, every man longs for a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue. That is how he bears the image of God; that is what God made him to be." By John Eldredge

DESTINED FOR THE THRONE

By Paul E Billheimer. "Destined for the Throne has inspired and challenged me by the insights and fresh interpretations of the Scriptures regarding prayer, praise, and the church's place in the world. Every Christian who feels impelled to find a deeper dimension of Christian witness should not only read this book but study it prayerfully, and apply its principles to his life." Billy Graham

THE GLORY OF CHRIST

"Here is a book for Christians of every theological and demoninational background. It is a book that will challenge the mind and awaken the faith at the glory of Christ." By R. C. Sproul