

THE PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Hebrews 3:13

Introduction: We follow through on the things for which we are held accountable.

1. Why Is It Necessary For You To Be Accountable To Someone In The Spiritual Realm?

1. Anyone may fall, “Lest anyone of you...” 1 Co. 10:12
2. Falling into sin is a gradual process...”be hardened”
3. Sin is deceitful (“the deceitfulness of sin” that which gives a false impression, whether by appearance, statement or influence.)
 - i. Same word used of Satan who deceived Eve (1 Co. 11:13; 1 Tim. 2:14).
 - ii. Genesis 3:13 “The Serpent deceived me and I ate,” is her excuse, but the excuse doesn’t hold and God still judges her sin.
 - iii. Note Satan’s tactic with Eve. i.e. 2 Co. 11:14-15
 - iv. See Genesis 3:1-5 Satan:
 - Casts doubt on God’s Word or command. 3:1
 - Casts doubt on God’s judgment. 3:4
 - Presents sin in the best light. 3:5

2. What Do You Do When You Encourage Someone?

1. Parakaleo - to urge one to pursue some course of action, with regard to the future as somewhat contrasted with comfort, which is comforting someone about a past situation. Sought, beseech, pray, pleading.
2. What is involved?
 - Acts 2:40 be enthusiastic
 - Acts 11:23 be resolute or persistent
 - Acts 14:22 to endure or be prepared for tribulation
 - Acts 15:32 with lengthy message from the Word
 - 2 Co. 9:5 to give
 - 1 Tim. 2:1 to pray
 - Titus 2:6 to be sober minded
 - 1 Tim. 6:2 to be good workers for believers or unbelievers
 - 1 Pet. 2:11 to stay clear from sins of flesh
3. As the lepers and the blind pleading with Christ to heal them.
4. As a father pleading with his own children. 2 Thess 2:11

3. When Do You Encourage Someone?

As long as it is called today (NOW)

4. Whom Do You Encourage?

One another - yes, pastors have this as a particular responsibility, but each of us is to encourage one another.

HOW TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

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Encouraging One Another Daily

1. Seek out another Christian with whom you can share and be honest. Choose someone outside your own home. It's too easy to make excuses with someone in your own home.
2. Choose two time periods during the week, convenient to both, when you can call each other and talk for about 15 minutes. (i.e. Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 9:30 p.m.)
3. Follow this schedule for your conversation.
 - a. Each one of you praise the Lord for something(s) from the week. (i.e. an answer to prayer, victory over sin in a specific situation, the provision of a need, etc.)

How to share a testimony:

 - (1) Tell what the specific need or problem was and give necessary details without being boring or gory.
 - (2) Tell how you attempted to solve the need or problem.
 - (3) Tell how God worked to meet the need or give victory.
 - b. Each one of you share briefly, in a sentence or two, something you have received from God's Word. No sermons!! Just tell why it was meaningful to you and how you applied it to your life. Don't preach it to your partner.
 - c. Each share a specific need, a particular problem or prayer request. Each one should include in this a specific prayer for one unsaved friend or loved one.
 - d. If a particular problem comes up more than once work out specific steps to solving the problem. Heb. 10:24-25.
 - e. Each pray for the other's specific requests. Write down requests if you need to in order to remember to pray for them throughout the week.
 - f. Encourage one another to share specific praise items in bible studies and in conversation with other believers.
4. Seek to join together at least once a month over a meal for face to face fellowship.
5. Seek to stick to the above schedule. Unless there are specific emergency needs it is best to keep the conversation brief otherwise they will become a drain on your time schedules.

Encouraging One Another for Personal Integrity & Godliness

These accountability Questions are to be asked of one another in a weekly meeting of accountability which values honest, confidentiality and integrity (Pr. 27:17; Jms.5:16; Gal. 6:1-5). These questions are only as helpful as you are willing to be honest and vulnerable.

1. Have you been a verbal testimony this week to the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life?
2. Have you been faithful to your prayer commitment this week?
3. What can you share with me specifically that God showed you through your Bible study this week?
4. Are you giving to the Lord's work regularly and proportionately?
5. Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings?
6. Have you given priority time to your family? How?
7. Have you damaged another person by your words either behind their back or face to face?
8. Have you been plagued by any specific sin this week?
9. Have you continued to remain angry toward another?
10. Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
11. Have you fantasized a romantic relationship or been in a compromising situation with a member of the opposite sex or have you viewed any questionable material?
12. Have you just lied to me about any of this?

**But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today,
so that none of you may be hardened
by sin's deceitfulness."**

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Evangelism Prayer Focus

Each of you in the group is to prayerfully identify three people whom you feel are your highest evangelistic priority. List their names on this card, as well as the cards of each in your group. Pray through the following prayers for each individual mentioned at least once every week. Keep this card in your Bible as a book mark and a reminder for you to pray for these people. Check the box next to each name when they accept Christ as their Savior.

<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Pray that...

1. God draws them to Himself as only He can. Jn. 6:44
2. They seek to know God. Acts 17:27
3. They believe the Word of God I Thes. 2:13
4. Satan is kept from blinding them to the truth. 2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Tim.2:25-26
5. The Holy Spirit would convict them of their sin and their need for Christ's redemption.
Jn 16:8-13
6. God would send someone who will share the gospel with them (He might send you!)
Mat. 9:37-38
7. God would give you the opportunity, the courage and the right words to share the truth with them.
Col. 4:3-6; Eph. 6:19-20
8. They turn from their sin. Acts 17:30; 1 Thes. 1:9-10
9. They would put all their trust in Christ. Jn. 1:12; 5:24
10. They would make Christ the Lord of their lives. Rom. 10:9-10
11. They take root and grow in their faith. Col 2:6-7