

Why Accountability?

Are you living with an eternal perspective—a realization that you're held accountable to God for how you invest the gift of your very life?

Is *all* of your life worship of your Creator and loving His people (Matthew 22:37-39), or would you humbly admit that you still tend to love the creation more than the Creator?

Would you have to acknowledge that you still have the tendency to put your interests above those for whom you are called to lay down your life?

Jesus taught that people are responsible and will be held accountable for their actions and words (Matthew 12:36). Are you living as if the day of judgment could be today? Are you a workman of God who needs not be ashamed (cf., 2 Timothy 2:15)?

Since the Fall, the rebellious nature of man wants to, in essence, be God rather than be held accountable by God. God is distorted by the human mind into man's own image, and thus everything becomes permissible. This self-centered view of life leads to a miserable state of slavery to sin rather than joyful obedience to God.

God, however, through the Holy Spirit's illumination of Christ, calls us from slavery to freedom (Ephesians 2:4). This freedom in Christ empowers believers to live according to the precepts and principles of God's Word (2 Peter 1:3-8).

Accountability assists believers in becoming imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1). God designed the Church to encourage one another toward love and good works (Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:24).

Accountability with other believers promotes spiritual maturity through humility, honesty, obedience and exhortation to live and love as Christ. "To develop true maturity... without some form of accountability is like believing that you can raise children without discipline" [Bill Hull]. Accountability is needed because, like sheep, we tend to go astray and become hardened by sin (Isaiah 53:6; Hebrews 3:13), rather than do everything to the glorious praise of our heavenly Father (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Biblical Examples of Accountability

- Accountability to God...
 - † Romans 14:10-12—"Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."
 - † Matthew 12:36—"I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak."
 - † Romans 3:19; Philippians 2:9-11; Luke 12:48
- Accountability to your spouse...
 - † Marriage should be the primary means of harmonious human accountability. All of the "one another" passages should be applied here first and foremost. The calling of God for those married to be "one flesh" with their spouse, precedes the calling of edification among the Body of Christ.
 - † Genesis 2:24-25; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 3:4, 12; 1 Peter 3:1-7
- Accountability to spiritual leaders...
 - † 1 Corinthians 16:15-16; Hebrews 13:17
- Accountability to one another...
 - † Romans 15:1-2; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5; 1 Corinthians 16:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-14; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24

Practical Advantages of Accountability

- When we're accountable, we're less likely to fall into a trap.
 - † Proverbs 11:14; 13:14, 19, 20; 15:31-33
- When we're accountable, we're more likely to see the big picture.
 - † Proverbs 27:17
- When we're accountable, we're not likely to get away with wayward actions.
 - † Proverbs 27:6; Galatians 6:1

How to "Do Accountability"

- Study God's Word together and discuss how it applies (James 1:22).
- Share concerns and pray for each other together and during the week (Ephesians 6:18).
- Strive to make the best use of time with God, family, church, work, etc. (Ephesians 5:15-16).
- Share how each person is doing with regard to trials, temptations, and the spiritual disciplines (Proverbs 27:17).
- Spur each other on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).
- Memorize and review Scripture memory verses together (Psalm 119:9-11).
- Ask each other revealing questions that help expose heart issues (1 Samuel 16:7)

During Accountability You Should...

- Be honest and humble about struggles
- Be patient and understanding, not condemning (Matthew 7:1-2)
- Exhort when needed, but always in love.
- Choose your words carefully & guard against gossip and being critical.
- Be trustworthy - keep things confidential.
- Be faithful and dependable.
- Encourage and build up one another; do not tear one another down (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- Practice love, not legalism!

Seeking An Accountability Partner/Group...

- Begin by praying for God to reveal to you a person or small group.
- Consider those in your church or other biblically-grounded Christian friends or family.
- Avoid one-on-one accountability with the opposite gender (besides spouse) so that nobody is put in a compromising situation.
- Get to know each other and see if your time together could be beneficial.
- If you sense that a particular individual or small group would be beneficial, ask if they would be accountability partners.

If you desire to enter into an accountability relationship and need assistance connecting with someone, please visit with a Care Group leader for the names of others who also desire to be held accountable in their pilgrimage.

Personalized accountability questions...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

"Equipping God's people to delight in His glory and declare that glory to the nations!"

Redeemer Church

4436 Rush River Trail
Fort Worth, TX 76123
(817) 292-4722

www.redeemerfortworth.org

Accountability Questions to Consider...

1. Have you spent daily time with God in Bible reading and prayer? If not, how do you plan on doing this?
2. What Biblical principles impacted your life from your quiet times this week? How are you applying what you have learned?
3. Are you memorizing and reviewing Scripture memory verses consistently?
4. Have you given 100% effort in your job and home responsibilities?
5. How have you expressed encouragement, love, and praise to your spouse, kids, and others around you? If not, how will you?
6. What have you done to enhance your relationship with your spouse?
7. How have you been tempted and how did you respond?
8. Have you had any flirtatious or lustful attitudes, tempting thoughts, or exposed yourself to any explicit materials? If so, what provisions need to be removed or precautions taken to prevent this from occurring again?
9. Have you had any unwholesome talk, told any half-truths or outright lies, exaggerated?
10. Have you made the most of every opportunity to share the gospel with unbelievers this week?
11. What was your biggest joy this week and why was it your biggest joy?
12. Have you allowed any person or circumstance to rob you of your joy?
13. Is your conscience clear? If not, how do you plan on attaining a clear conscience?
14. Have you offended anyone? If so, have you sought reconciliation, and how did you do so?
15. Are you being a good steward of the finances with which God has entrusted you? Are you investing in worldly pleasures or in heavenly treasures?
16. Are you exercising on a regular basis?
17. Are you practicing healthy eating habits?

Add your own questions and discuss how often, when, and where you will go through them.

A Practical Guide To...
Accountability

*"Accountability requires a willingness to roll up our sleeves and get alongside people as they fight the war between sin and righteousness."
-Paul David Tripp*



"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10