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. 1815-17; 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.

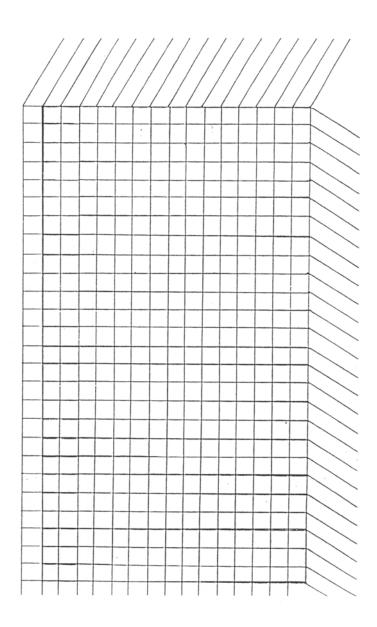
B. Take Action

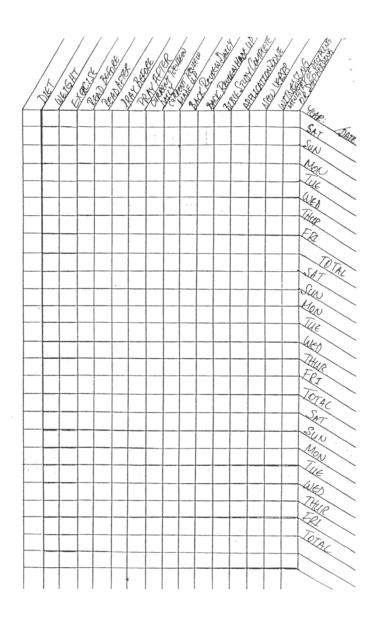
- 1. Be accountable to yourself.
- 2. Keep a record of your progress by writing it down daily. Use the check chart if it helps you.
- 3. Ask the Lord for a man or men of like heart, mind, and vision to whom you can be accountable.
- 4. Consider the possible sources that you already have
- 5. Go explain 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".





Settle: SAZ EUN) Moc Till RED THERE IRI SAZ Suc Hew THE WED THERY TOTAL SOT Sur MON THE AND THE WAY TRIAL