

This Is The Way Accountability

Introduction: It's A Hard Word For Us

- Commitment & Accountability

Our Capacity For Excuses

- "Because"
- "Excuses, excuses, excuses"
- Scripture is clear: God loves us, but He will hold us accountable.

For the Scriptures say, "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to God." Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. (Romans 14:11-12 NLT)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable. (Hebrews 4:12-13 NLT)

And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. (Matthew 12:36 NLT)

Our Accountability To God

Daniel Webster was once asked, "What is the most profound thought that has ever entered your mind?" He answered, "My accountability to God."

See if you agree with this: It's precisely because God loves us and values us as people that He gives us the dignity of being accountable for the choices we make.

Note: We are accountable but God is not harsh!

Note: People who are willing to be accountable...

- They are open and honest
- They take responsibility instead of making excuses
- They care about doing what is right rather than doing what is comfortable

Key Observations to Promote Accountability

1st Observation: Accountability is necessary because it helps me do with somebody else what I would not do all by myself.

Train yourself to be godly. "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it. This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers. (1 Timothy 4:7-10 NLT)

Question 1: What have I done this past week that has helped me to become more like Jesus?

Question 2: What have I done this past week that has caused me to become less like Jesus?

2nd Observation: Accountability works better when I invite it rather than enduring it.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24 NIV)

3rd Observation: Accountability takes a lot of courage.

But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. (Galatians 2:11 NLT)

When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions? (Galatians 2:14 NLT)

I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die. (Galatians 2:21 NLT)

Five Dysfunctions (Peter Lencioni)

1. Lack of trust
2. Fear of conflict
3. Absence of commitment
4. Avoidance of accountability
5. Inattention to results

4th Observation: Accountability is not just about avoiding what is bad but it's also about pursuing what is good.

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. (Colossians 3:23 NLT)

Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. (1 Timothy 4:12 NLT)

Conclusion: What's Your Excuse?