

Accountability – Growing Mature, Ministering Disciples

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Stephen Beutler

“Now, I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” Colossians 1:24-29

SUMMARY:

Each of us should set goals that help us accomplish our understanding of God’s purpose for our lives and the priorities God has for us. We need someone to whom we can be answerable – to give an accurate report – about how we are progressing toward these goals. The Bible delineates general guidelines for our character and conduct which apply to all Christians. We need people in our lives to challenge and encourage us to live up to those standards. That is what an accountability group is all about.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

How many men do you know who have regularly scheduled time when they meet with a Christian brother for accountability? Why do you think so few men have accountable relationships? How would you define accountability? What are the important ingredients in order for an accountable relationship to work? Are you ready to establish an accountable relationship? Why or why not?

APPLICATION:

Some men have spectacular failures where in an instant they abruptly burst into flames, crash, and burn. But the more common way men get into trouble evolves from hundreds of tiny decisions – decisions which go undetected – that slowly, like water tapping on a cork, wear down a man’s character. Not blatantly or precipitously, but subtly, over time, we get caught in a web of cutting corners and compromise, self-deceit and wrong thinking, which goes unchallenged by anyone in our lives.

ON YOUR OWN...

Think on these Scriptures:
Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:1-2
Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Phil. 2:4
A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34
Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up. Ecc. 4:9-10
The kisses of an enemy may be profuse, but faithful are the wounds of a friend. Proverbs 27:6
As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17