

# Accountability

## **INTRODUCTION.**

- A. What is accountability?
1. : the quality or state of being accountable; especially : an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions <public officials lacking accountability> (www.m-w.com)
  2. What is required for accountability? The mental ability to comprehend the expectation or the obligation of a given task.
    - a. Example: Six months old baby – The child is neither mentally nor physically able to fulfill any expectations other than to grow, and that he or she has no conscious control over.
    - b. Example: 2 years – put a dish in the sink but not expected to clean up room unsupervised
    - c. Example: 8 years – can clean room, can clean yard, but the 8 year old will not have the same level of accountability as would the 17 year old
    - d. Example: 18 years – job – sleep late – accountable. Ex. Driving and expected to pick up sibling – forgets – accountable
    - e. With the mental ability present, a person can develop both the knowledge and ability to fulfill a given responsibility.
- B. With this lesson, we will show six areas where Christians are to recognize their accountability.

## **I. ACCOUNTABILITY TO ONE'S WORD.**

- A. Voluntarily accountability.
1. If we are going to take on a responsibility, then we must do our best to honor our word and fulfill the responsibility.
  2. Let our word be a sufficient guarantee. (cf. Matthew 5:37)
  3. If a person is going to entrust us with a responsibility, then we must be faithful to their trust in us.
- B. Consider verses in Proverbs.

1. The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him. (Proverbs 20:7)
2. Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint. (Proverbs 25:19)

**II. ACCOUNTABILITY TO ONE’S PARENTS.**

- A. The role of parents is to train their children to follow the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)
- B. In the book of Proverbs, Solomon referenced the rule of father and mother.
  1. Proverbs 1:8
  2. Proverbs 6:20
- C. Children are to obey their parents in the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20)
  1. “Honor expresses the frame of mind from which obedience proceeds.” (Vincent’s Word Studies)

**III. ACCOUNTABILITY TO ONE’S FAMILY.**

- A. Husband and wife are accountable to one another. (cf. Genesis 2:24)
  1. The wife is accountable for her role within the relationship.
  2. The husband is accountable for his role within the relationship.
- B. Parents are to love their children and teach them the way of the Lord. (Titus 2:4; Ephesians 6:4)
- C. Parents are to discipline their children. (Proverbs 22:15; 13:24)
- D. Family members have a responsibility to see to the care of other family members. (1 Timothy 5:8)

**IV. ACCOUNTABILITY TO OTHER CHRISTIANS.**

- A. Christians have a responsibility to possess a working love for one another. (1 John 4:7-11; 3:17-18; 1 Peter 2:17)
- B. Christians have a responsibility of strengthening each other. (Hebrews 12:12-13; James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Romans 14:13; 15:1-2)
- C. Christians have a responsibility to help a brother who is caught in sin. (Galatians 6:1-4; James 5:19-20)

**V. ACCOUNTABILITY TO AUTHORITY.**

- A. Local eldership. (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5a)
- B. Employers. (Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Timothy 6:1,2; Proverbs 25:13)

- C. Christians have the responsibility of obeying the authority of the land.
  - 1. Jesus taught His disciples to render to Caesar those things which belonged to Caesar. (Matthew 22:17-21)
  - 2. Paul taught the saints in Rome to be subject to the governing authorities. (Romans 13:1-7)
  - 3. Peter wrote, “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, . . .” (1 Peter 2:13-17)

## **VI. ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE LORD.**

- A. Consider an example of accountability as seen in the parable of the men entrusted with their master's money. (Matthew 25:14-30)
- B. Accountability will be faced by all men at the day of Judgment.
  - 1. One day, every person will have to give an account of himself to God.
    - a. Romans 14:10b-12 -
    - b. Hebrews 4:13 -
    - c. Revelation 20:12 -
  - 2. God will use the words of Jesus to judge all mankind.
    - a. John 12:47-49
    - b. 2 Corinthians 5:10 -
    - c. Romans 2:16
- C. Every knee will bow at the name of Jesus Christ on this great day of reckoning. (Philippians 2:9-12)

## **CONCLUSION.**

- A. In all of the aforementioned areas of accountability, the greatest area is accountability unto God. When a person lives his life believing he will have to give an account before God, he will work to uphold all areas of responsibility within his life.
- B. While all areas of accountability have their various consequences, the consequences for not faithfully following the Heavenly father are the greatest. The consequence for one who rejects the authority of Jesus Christ, the Son of God will be an eternal consequence. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)
- C. The only way a person can avoid consequences is to recognize his own accountability and make the necessary changes in order to fulfill that which is required.