

# Accountability

## Lesson I

### What is Accountability?

- Definition of accountability – “: 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)
- *What is required for accountability?* Accountability requires the mental ability to comprehend the expectation or the obligation of a given task.
  - Let's test for accountability.** List a few examples showing the level of accountability in the following examples.
    - ✓ 8 month old child: *The parents have no expectation of the child other than to eat and grow.*
    - ✓ 2 year old child: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - ✓ 10 year old child: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - ✓ 17 year old child: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- With the mental ability present, a person can develop both the knowledge and ability to fulfill a given responsibility.
- Voluntary versus involuntary accountability.
  - In the area of **voluntary** accountability, a person makes the choice to take on a responsibility for which he will be held accountable.
  - In the area of **involuntary** accountability, a person has no choice regarding a certain expectation, and therefore, accountability.
  - In the process of studying this lesson, give consideration to which areas belong within the realms of voluntary accountability and involuntary accountability.

## Accountability to One's Word

- Voluntary accountability would be the willingness to voluntarily accept responsibility regarding a certain task.
  - ❑ If a person is going to take on a responsibility, then he must do his best to honor his word and fulfill the responsibility.
  - ❑ A person's word should be a sufficient guarantee.
    - 📖 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. (Matthew 5:37)
  - ❑ A person who agrees to be entrusted with a given responsibility must always strive to be faithful to the one who has granted the trust.
- Consider verses in Proverbs.
  - 📖 The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him. (Proverbs 20:7)
  - 📖 Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips. (Proverbs 25:19)

DISCUSSION: BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS AREA OF ACCOUNTABILITY. {I.E. WHAT COULD BE THE RESULTS OF ONE NOT BEING TRUE TO ONE'S OWN WORD?}

## Accountability to One's Parents

- Solomon referred to the role of parents in leading their children.
  - 📖 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; (Proverbs 1:8)
  - 📖 My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. (Proverbs 6:20)
- The child's role is to obey his parents, to follow his parents' instructions and their laws. This God given responsibility places upon the child an accountability which grows as the child grows in mental comprehension and knowledge.
  - 📖 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)
  - 📖 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. (Colossians 3:20)
    - ✍ *What do you think is the reason why children obeying their parents would be "right" or "well pleasing" to the Lord?*
- The apostle Paul issued a strong warning against the attitude of disobedience. Consider the severity of this sin as Paul groups it with a list of other sins.

### Consequences

Use this area on each page to list consequences that could be associated with each area of accountability.

📖 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, . . . inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, . . . unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. (Romans 1:29-32)

DISCUSSION: BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS AREA OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

### Accountability to One's Family

- Husband and wife are accountable to one another.
  - 📖 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)*
  - ☐ The wife is accountable for being in subjection to her husband. (cf. Ephesians 5:22-24, 33)
  - ☐ The husband is accountable for loving his wife and treating her as he would his own self. (cf. Ephesians 5:25-33)
- Parents are to love their children and teach them the way of the Lord.
  - 📖 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (Titus 2:3-4)
  - 📖 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)
- Parents are to discipline their children.
  - 📖 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him. (Proverbs 22:15)
  - 📖 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly. (Proverbs 13:24)
- Family members have a responsibility to see to the care of other family members.
  - 📖 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)

DISCUSSION: BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS AREA OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

### Accountability to Other Christians

- Christians have a responsibility to possess a working love for one another. (1 John 4:7-11)

📖 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:17-18)

📖 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. (1 Peter 2:17)

- Christians have a responsibility of strengthening each other.

📖 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. (Hebrews 12:12-13)

📖 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:16)

📖 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way. (Romans 14:13)

📖 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. (Romans 15:1-2)

- Christians have a responsibility to help a brother who is caught in sin. (Galatians 6:1-4)

📖 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20)

DISCUSSION: BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS AREA OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

### Accountability to Authority

- Christians have the responsibility of submitting unto the eldership of the local church. (1 Peter 5:1-5)

📖 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17)

- Christians have the responsibility of upholding the responsibilities assigned by their employers. (Ephesians 6:5-9)

📖 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who

are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things. (1 Timothy 6:1-2)

📖 Like the cold of snow in time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters. (Proverbs 25:13)

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

DISCUSSION: BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS AREA OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

### Accountability to the Lord

- Consider an example of accountability as seen in the parable of the servants entrusted with their master's money. (Matthew 25:14-30)
- Accountability will be faced by all men at the day of Judgment.
  - ❑ One day, every person will have to give an account of himself to God.
    - 📖 . . . For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 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 shall give account of himself to God. (Romans 14:10b-12)
    - 📖 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:13)
    - 📖 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. (Revelation 20:12)
  - ❑ God will use the words of Jesus to judge all mankind.
    - 📖 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. (John 12:47-49)
    - 📖 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according

to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. (2 Corinthians 5:9-11)

📖 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel. (Romans 2:16)

- Every knee will bow at the name of Jesus Christ on this great day of reckoning. (Philippians 2:9-12)

DISCUSSION: BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS AREA OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

### Conclusion

- 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.
- 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)

📖 "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire. (Matthew 18:8-9)

📖 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)

- 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.

### Any Final Questions or Comments?

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