

# Accountability

We not only want you to do well in life now; we want you to finish well. People who really make an impact model accountability. Accountability, in simplest terms, is answering the hard questions. Accountability includes opening one's life to a few carefully selected, trusted, loyal confidants who speak the truth – who have the right to examine, to question, to appraise and to give counsel. They are the ones who have earned the right to come alongside and, when it seems appropriate and necessary, ask the hard questions. Accountability is being helped to do what you want to do rather than what you don't want to do. The purpose of the relationship is not to make someone squirm or to pull rank and devastate an individual. Rather, it is to be a helpful sounding board, to guard someone from potential peril, to identify the possibility of a "blind spot", to serve in an advisory capacity, bringing perspective and wisdom where such may be lacking.

## Four Qualities Accountability People Have:

- Vulnerability – capable of being wounded, shown to be wrong, even admitting it before being confronted
- Teachability – a willingness to learn, being quick to hear and respond to reproof, being open to counsel
- Availability – accessible, touchable, able to be interrupted
- Honesty – committed to the truth regardless of how much it hurts, a willingness to admit the truth no matter how difficult or humiliating the admission may be. Hating all that is phony or false.

## Biblical Principles:

1. Accountability to God is inescapable and inevitable (Matt 12:35-36; Rom 14:10-12)
2. Accountability to spiritual leaders is commanded by God and is profitable to us (1 Cor 16:13-16; Heb 13:17)
3. Accountability to one another is helpful and healthy (Rom 12:9-16, 15:1-2, 14; Gal 5:25-6:2). Often, left to ourselves we can lose our perspective.

## Advantages of Accountability:

1. When we are regularly accountable, we're less likely to stumble into a trap (Prov. 1, 10, 14, 18, 20; 15:31-33)
2. When we are regularly accountable, we're more likely to see the whole picture (Prov. 27:17, 19)
3. When we are regularly accountable, we're not likely to get away with sinful and unwise actions (Prov 27:6). Among other things, that limits those who wound us to those who love us. This tells me that not everyone has a right to climb into our life and come down on us with a rebuke. No, that is a privilege and responsibility of someone with whom we have established a love relationship. A love relationship, based on time spent together and a deep knowledge of each other, provides the oil rebukes need in order for them to be accepted. There are times when it is necessary for us to be bruised by a friend's straight talk.

## An Honest Evaluation of Ourselves:

1. Can you name one or more people outside your family to whom you have made yourself regularly accountable?
2. Are you aware of the dangers of not having accountability?
3. When was the last time you gave account for the "private area" of your life to someone outside your family?

This material was condensed from Charles Swindoll's book [Living Above the Level of Mediocrity: A Commitment to Excellence](#).