

GENUINE ACCOUNTABILITY
7 Traits of Highly Effective Christians, Part 2
February 5th, 2012

Normal accountability groups aren't bad; however, they are not enough

Why Accountability Groups Aren't All They're Cracked Up To Be

1. When it comes to shame-based sin, things we're very embarrassed about, people lie

When it comes to sin we are embarrassed about, our culture has switched from biblical "price tags," i.e. what the Scripture says is important to God
Proverbs 6:16-17 (GN) "There are seven things that the Lord hates and cannot tolerate: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that kill innocent people, a mind that thinks up wicked plans, feet that hurry off to do evil, a witness who tells one lie after another, and someone who stirs up trouble among friends."

2. Too often they lack real authority in our lives and the ability to put any consequences in our lives

When someone blows it again & again, and tells you about it & may even ask for prayer, you soon realize they may feel bad about it, but they aren't struggling with it very much

Too often we get our concepts of what forgiveness, grace, mercy, and encouragement looks like from our culture and not the Bible
1 Corinthians 5:9-13

When Christians are held accountable for their actions, it often stirs up a level of commitment that says, this is not who I want to be

Two Primary Aspects of a Genuinely Accountable Life

1. Transparency in their life

We think there is a God-given right to privacy - just God & me behind closed doors

This mindset often leads to a life of solitude and secrets
James 5:16; Jeremiah 23:24; Proverbs 15:3; 1 Timothy 5:24,25

Whether I hide it from you or not, the Real me is going to be exposed to the light someday - why not now instead of shocking others later on

2. A decision to be open to correction

People can see into our lives and speak into our lives, and we will not lash back at them
Proverbs 12:1

We can live with an open door policy or a closed door policy

Two Examples – One Wise & One Stupid

David – 2 Samuel 12:11-14 – key verse 13 “[David said] I have sinned against the Lord.”

Because David confessed & came clean, God took away his sin but not the consequences

David planted a “weed patch,” but because he was open to correction, in the midst of that lifelong weed patch, God grew some beautiful fruit

Uzziah – 2 Chronicles 26:15-24 – key verse 19 “Uzziah...became angry. While he was raging at the priests...”

2 door closers to people in our lives: a nger & excuses

To see if you have a problem in this area, ask your spouse, co-workers, friends & Kids
Proverbs 19:27

Why We Need An Accountable Lifestyle That Is Transparent & Open

1. We all have a traitor within
Romans 7:18-25; 1 John 1:8-10; Proverbs 20:9

2. Anonymity breeds sin & transparency breeds our best behavior

When I’m in a private place where no one knows, it is so much easier to experiment and fool around with things I’d never do in the “broad daylight” where others can see

I’m at my best when you are looking
Ephesians 5:8-9

3. The Christian life was never meant to be lived alone
Proverbs 27:17

The concept of a Lone Ranger Christian or “that’s between God & me” isn’t in the Bible

“Butting In” – Some Guidelines

When people butt into your life, look for the ounce of truth; don’t focus on the pound of unfairness or hypocrisy (see Proverbs 12:1 again)

Scripture tells us to butt in when we see something wrong in another Christian's life
1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians 6:1-2

With non-Christians mind your own business
1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

It’s not your job to make non-family members live according to family rules

With those who will not listen, save your breath
Proverbs 9:7-8; Proverbs 23:9