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 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 (I 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). All go through stressful times. If we have no one near during an extended period of high level stress, chances are good we may loose our perspective. If the stress gets great enough, we could crack. The solution? We need accountability.

## ADVANTAGES TO ACCOUNTABILITY

1. When we are regularly accountable, we’re less likely to stumble into a trap. (Prov.13:10,14,18,20; 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 are 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’s 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 an account for the “private areas” of your life to someone outside your family?