Blog 29-accountability

It appears to me that God’s plan to oversee our behavioral decisions are that:

1. the state will have \*\*legal jurisdiction over you/the people and

2. the body of Christ will have \*\*moral jurisdiction over you.

3. God/Jesus will have \*\*ultimate jurisdiction over you at the Judgment Seat.

Part of this moral jurisdiction is put into effect by the willing “accountability” of yourself to the “body” or to individuals within the body. It is put into effect by members calling out a brother who is sin/drifting into accountability.

There are many verses on these topics but here are three to introduce the subject of accountability.

Jesus teaching

Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear *thee, then* take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglected to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.

Mat 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Paul and James’s teaching

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat (tribunal) of Christ, so that each one may receive the things *done* through the body, according to that which he has done, whether good or bad.

Jas 5:19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

Jas 5:20 Let him know, that he which recovers the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Observations from above verses:

1. God’s plan is that we use each other to help us to become and remain God’s disciples.
2. A person should be removed from the body only when they totally reject the challenge/admonishment of the believers and doesn’t repent.
3. A person is culpable to the fellow believers they group with.
4. We benefit the fellow believer when we help them turn from sin. This is Church discipline.
5. The church is 2 or 3 people together. Not necessarily a building and a preacher and a choir.
6. We are ultimately accountable to God for our life on earth.

Definitions:

Accountability means the state of being [accountable](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/accountable), liable, or answerable and exist where one is willing to submit to someone else and someone is willing to listen and counsel.

Accountable means subject to the obligation to report explain or justify something.

Advisors means person responsible for advising people on life matters.

Opinion: I think there is reactive accountability and proactive accountability and Ultimate Accountability.

Reactive accountability: Where there is sin in the body and select people confronts the individual on their sin. Normally this is a violation of a negative commandment. This is people who are close associates who go to the “drifter-sinner”.

Proactive accountability: For non-sin issues. This covers the matters of living your life. The individual goes to get coaching from an advisory board on life matters.

Ultimate Accountability: Heb 9:27 “And as it is appointed to men once to die, but after this the judgment”. The word judgement here means-accusation, condemnation, damnation, judgment.

As my mentor said to me years ago, “you do nothing to earn your way into Heaven, but how you invest your life on earth will determine how you live out eternity in Heaven.”

There are at least six areas in our lives that should be subject to an Proactive Accountability:

1. Spiritual growth and thinking. This is through bible studies, fellowship; groups, evangelism, shared ministries, interpretation positions. This is growth to help in Rms 12:2, etc.
2. Our immediate family and our aging family
3. Money, giving, investments, etc.
4. Problems and disputes that grow up in our family’s life.
5. The management of behavior that is marginally wrong.
6. Defining and establishing your unique purpose.

Pro 15:22 Without wisdom, purposes are defeated, but by many wise men they are established.

If you are not connected to people who challenges your thinking, the odds are you could be started in spiritual drifting and heresy.

But in truth, we are ultimately accountable to Jesus, but I don’t see as the body that we take this accountability serious enough. We will answer to Him.

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There are many other areas that should be open to an advisory board. Some suggestions would be:

1. Relating to the opposite sex
2. Secret sex fantasies, hate of others, extended family problems
3. Bad habits
4. Conflicts
5. Mental growth vs mental stagnation

And we need to align our thinking with Jesus on:

1. Parental honor
2. Giving
3. What is our ministry
4. Raising the children in the Word
5. Work as a platform
6. Helping the poor and sick
7. Dealing with the local church
8. Staying viable for service as we age

Net out

Surround yourself with people smarter and wiser and more mature in the Word than yourself.

You will be accountable to God for what you did with your turn in life.

Applications

* + - 1. Starting today, start an accountability/advisory group for your view of the scriptures and application. They should follow up with us on our application. In bible study we should always prayerfully discern an application.
      2. I will review with my spouse to see what they think I need discipline, accountability, improvement on.
      3. If I have a hidden major sin in my life, I will find a brother that will work with me and help me overcome my problem.
      4. Evaluation of your life for to see if I am investing in

A, Wood, Hay, Stubble

OR B. Gold, Silver, Precious Stones

AND am I “storing up treasures in Heaven” or on earth.

Remember only two things last forever, The Word and People. Invest in these.

5. Am I investing or just spending the giftedness that God gave me? The plan from God is to invest it.

Remember, in the end we are accountable to God and Jesus. Get ready!