

Accountability

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February 25th, 2024

We would like your feedback!

Please answer this brief survey to help us provide you with a better small group experience!

<https://forms.gle/1miQBLuCAeKLC1qc7>

Review Last Week's Next Steps

- I will commit to share my life with a group of people.
- I will make fellowship a priority.
- I will commit to worshipping together with them regularly.
- I will talk with them about my temptations.
- I will allow them to tell me the truth about myself.
- I will ask someone to pray for my spiritual well-being.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

When someone deliberately enters into an accountable relationship with a trusted friend where there's raw honesty, it has the power to change their life. When they declare their key commitments in a concrete way and courageously invite honest feedback, it has the power to transform them and is indispensable for spiritual growth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We often focus on the God of love, but why do Christians hesitate to talk about the God of accountability?

2. Pastor Matt said, "It's precisely because God loves us and values our personhood that he gives us the dignity of being accountable." He also said, "Accountability to God and other people is a great gift." Can you share your thoughts on this? Why is it a gift rather than a punishment?

3. The New Testament has many verses about accountability. Please read some.

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:13)

“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” (James 5:16)

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24)

“This will take place on the day when God judges people’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.” (Romans 2:16)

We value accountability because, through Jesus, we received forgiveness, grace, and mercy which we could never earn on our own. Accountability includes being transparent, practicing honesty, seeking responsibility, and avoiding excuses - doing what is right rather than what is comfortable or easy.

To grow like this, Pastor Matt said to “deliberately enter into accountability relationships in a community with raw honesty.” Why do you think it is helpful to involve other people in mutual commitments of accountability or have public declarations of our commitment through ceremonies like baptism, and confirmation?

4. Paul wrote to Timothy, “Train yourself to be godly, for physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.” (1Timothy 4:7-9)

Pastor Matt said being “godly” means becoming the person that God made us to be and having the divine characteristics of love, joy, and integrity. Do we have to train in this? Or is it something that can be acquired by determination? Why?

5. Recall Jesus’s parable of a master who had entrusted his wealth to three servants; after a long time, the master returned to settle accounts with them. The servant who did nothing with the wealth was criticized by the master, and what had been given to him was taken away. Accountability is about pursuing good. Do you sometimes bury your talents or refuse to honor your responsibilities? Do you refuse to take a leap of faith? Do you refuse to grow? If so, in what areas can you train yourself to have godliness and realize the capacities that God gifted you?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will tell a trusted friend about a commitment I’ve made and ask for accountability.
- I will do what James says and confess my sins to a trusted friend and ask them to pray for me so that I may find healing.
- I will have the courage to come out of the darkness.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Romans 14:12
- Hebrews 4:13
- Romans 2:16
- Matthew 12:36
- 1 Timothy 4:7-9
- James 5:16
- Hebrews 10:24
- Galatians 2:11
- Galatians 2:14
- Colossians 3:23
- 1 Timothy 4:12

Prayer Request(s)

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