



Accountability
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Preview

Everything we do impacts someone; as a result, we are accountable to God, to authority, and to our peers.

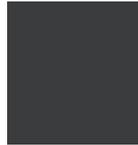
Praise

Ask a student what he/she is thankful for. Each student should share something...no repeats.

Parable

Imagine if there were no traffic rules. When you came to a four-way stop, who would go first? If there were no traffic lights at a busy intersection, how would we all know what to do? What if some people wanted to drive on the right side of the road, but some people drove on the left?

Obviously, this would be very dangerous. That's why we have traffic laws. By following those laws, we are showing accountability. We are accountable to the government; if we don't abide by the laws, we could end up in jail. We are accountable to the police; if we violate the law and they pull us over, we have to pay the fine. We are accountable to other drivers; if we don't follow the rules of the road, we could cause a car accident, resulting in injury or death.



Present

The way we live our lives impacts others. What we do will either hurt people or build them up. Because of that, Jesus Christ has instituted a system of accountability that can be found in His Word.

1. We are accountable to God (John 14:15)

Jesus said that, if we loved Him, we would demonstrate that love by keeping His commandments. That doesn't mean we're perfect; we all make mistakes. However, our intentions should be to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

This can be difficult, because we don't always agree with (or understand) what the Bible is instructing us to do. Well, a child may be told not to touch a hot burner. The child may not agree. The child may not understand that the burner can hurt him. If the child obeys, though, they child will avoid a lot of pain. God doesn't require things of us to make us miserable; He wants to protect us. If we are to have His protection, we must allow ourselves to be accountable to Him.

2. We are accountable to authority (Hebrews 13:17, Romans 13:1)

God commanded us to obey authority figures in our lives! This can be difficult...especially if we don't agree with them. The verses DON'T say "Be accountable to them only if they are perfect people." God requires us to be accountable to them regardless!

Our parents, teachers, bosses, etc. are not perfect. This does not mean we are free from our Biblical obligation to be accountable to them. Unless they are asking something of us that would make us be obedient to God, we are to be accountable to them for our actions.

3. We are accountable to each other (Galatians 6:1, Acts 2:44-47)

God wants us to be there for each other. How we live could help restore someone who has fallen into temptation! What a powerful opportunity! Our godly lifestyle can be the difference between whether they make it to heaven or hell. Remember the old saying: "If you stand for nothing, you'll fall for anything."



Additionally, The passage in Acts shows us that the early church helped each other out, and lived a life of favor with all the people. What an incredible testimony! Our actions should be pleasing to God, but pleasing others can go a long way toward winning them to God. When we yell at the person who gets our order wrong, or give an ugly look to the person that bumps us in the hall, it sends a message; it tells them that we don't think our actions matter.

Practice

Have everyone gather in a circle and grab both hands of the person across from them. Then, have them untangle themselves without letting go of the person's hands who they are holding. This will take communication and cooperation.

That was an exercise in accountability! We all may have had different ideas of how it should have been done, but when you put those ideas aside and worked together, you had a much better outcome.

Pray

Pray with the students for God to help them to be accountable, even when it's tough, understanding their life is not their own and is lived for others.

Plus

Instruct the students to make a list of the different areas of accountability...God, authority and peers. Under each heading, they should write 2-3 things they could do to be more accountable in those areas.