

Message Notes

Good and Bad Accountability

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - "The joys of peer pressure"

Today's Message ~ Good Accountability
vrs. Bad Accountability --- 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

The power of example
2 Corinthians 9:1-2

Stirred - "to cause someone to react in a way that suggests acceptance of a challenge, arouse, provoke"

The power of publicity
2 Corinthians 9:3

The power of promise keeping
2 Corinthians 9:4

The power of accountability
2 Corinthians 9:5

Bad Accountability vrs. Good Accountability

Bad Accountability

1. It is one-sided
2. It is rule based and therefore, behavior based
3. It has a sense of never measuring up
4. It is punitive
5. It is based on fitting into a sub-culture

Romans 6:14
1 Corinthians 15:56-57

If accountability is so very dangerous, then why do it?

Proverbs 27:17
Hebrew 2:12-13
Hebrews 10:24-25
Acts 15:36-40

Good (Gospel) Accountability

1. It is mutual
2. It is scriptural
3. It is measurable
4. It has clear gospel/grace orientation with repentance, killing sin, and transformation as the expectation
5. It points to Jesus Christ, not the sin in question
6. It is clearly about the relationship

The power of Gospel Friends ~ R. C. Sproul

Gospel Application - "Are you open to using friendships/accountability in your life to help you in your mortification of sin in your life?"

Gospel Friendship/ Accountability process:

Identify the sin
Be killing the sin, or it will be killing you
Trust God and his promises

* Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed.) (391). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

2 Corinthians 9:1-5

¹There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the saints. ²For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. ³But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Hebrew 2:12-13

¹²See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Acts 15:36-40

³⁶Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

Peer Pressure:



A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS



BRIDEZILLA RETURNS

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IN COLOR



A large pile of old, dark, and worn coins, possibly pennies, is shown against a black background. The coins are scattered and piled together, with some showing signs of age and discoloration. Overlaid on the coins is the text "The Grace of Giving" in a white, elegant, cursive script. The text is centered and flows across the pile of coins.

The Grace of Giving

Last week's Message:

Taking Care of Business
The Right Way:
Integrity

A faithful person put in charge

2 Corinthians 8:16-17

¹⁶I thank God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you. ¹⁷For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative.

Another person is involved

2 Corinthians 8:18-19

¹⁸And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel.

¹⁹What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help.

The rationale for all this administration

2 Corinthians 8:20-21

²⁰We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. ²¹For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

Another person!

2 Corinthians 8:22-23

²²In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you. ²³As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ.

The Result – a commendation of leaders to trust and love

2 Corinthians 8:24

²⁴Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.

This week's Message:

Good Accountability

vrs

Bad Accountability

2 Corinthians 9:1-5

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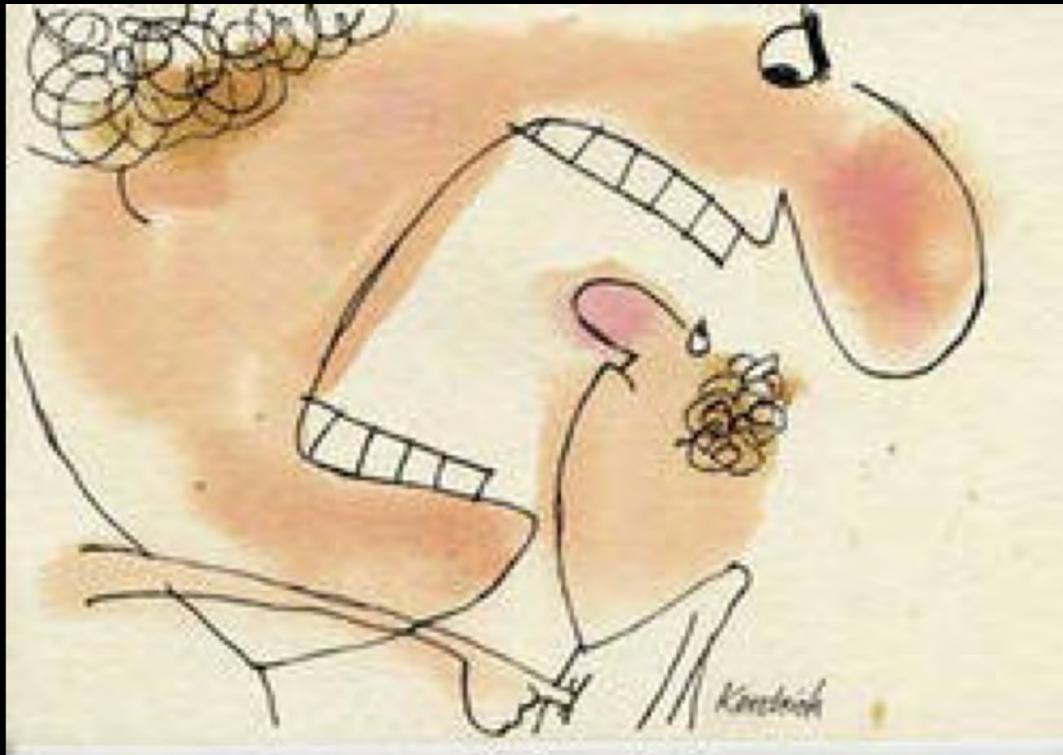
Bad vrs Good Accountability

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"We are the Borg. You will be assimilated. Your biological and technological distinctiveness will be added to our own..."



"Resistance is Futile."

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6. It is just a “Confessional Booth” love fest



Bad vrs Good Accountability

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Good (Gospel) Accountability

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Good (Gospel) Accountability

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2. It is scriptural



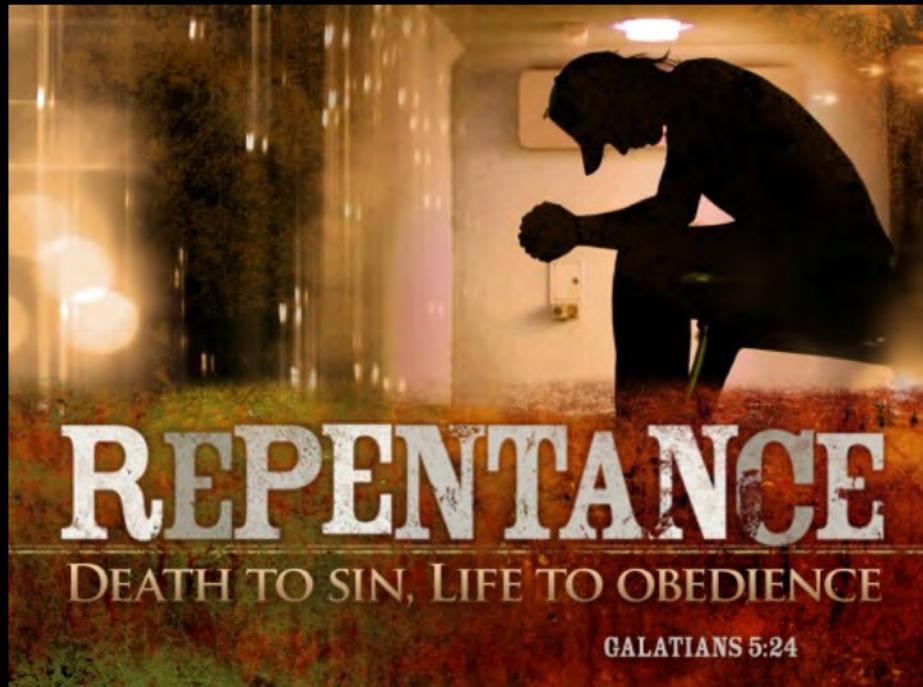
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GOSPEL-CENTERED
CHRIST-CENTERED

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The Power of Gospel Friends:

~ R. C. Sproul

It was, I suspect, somewhat early on in the growth of the “accountability” movement. I had heard the concept, but had not given it much study. The deacon at the church I attended as a young married man apparently had studied it. And so, seemingly with the approval of the session, he sat perched by the entrance of the sanctuary. He asked me, as he asked everyone passing by, with all the tact and enthusiasm of a carnival barker, if I had an accountability group.

Being young and naïve I stopped and asked, “What’s that?”

“Well,” he explained, “it’s a group of men who are active in your life, that care for you enough to challenge you when you fall into sin. They watch out for you, support you, encourage you to grow in grace and wisdom.”

“In that case,” I retorted, “I do have an accountability group. It’s just that I call them my friends.”

Twenty years later I find myself having the same kind of conversation. When people find out about the loss of my wife, they suggest that I find myself a group, Though I seek to mask my skepticism, it apparently shows through. “Really,” folks tell me, “you need people that you can talk to, that you can be real with. You need people you can count on to be there for you.”

The answer is the same. I understand the need. And it is well met in my life, by my friends.

Now I have nothing against accountability, nor accountability groups. I am positively in favor of grieving, and have nothing against groups built around that theme. What puzzles me on both counts, however, is how we have lost what is natural, and sought to replace it with programs. What does it say about the culture, both inside and outside the church, that callings normally born by friends now are met by something so artificial, so inorganic. These groups strike me as the emotional equivalent of a multivitamin. Sure enough many of us are not getting enough vitamin D or zinc in our diets. But isn't eating a few more veggies a better way to solve the problem?

Institutional solutions to relational problems at least do this for us- they expose our relational weaknesses. If our lifestyles make healthy meals a challenge, we need to change our lifestyles. If the transience and cyber-ness of our relationships make, well, friendship, a problem we need to change how we relate. We need to love near, and serve near.

And if, on the other hand, we have healthy relationships- real, personal relationships where we encourage one another toward righteousness, where we are free to be ourselves, where we talk with depth, and love with sincerity, we yet have this to do- we need to give thanks. We need not create a gratitude committee at our local church to create a gratitude program. No, we need to give thanks. So here I do. I have friends and family that love and care for me and my children. They check up on me. They look me in the eye when they talk to me. They hug me when they see me. They tell me they love me, and joyfully receive my love in return. They mourn when I mourn, as I rejoice when they rejoice. And I pray that they know that I give thanks to Him for them. I have friends, more and better than I deserve.

~ R. C. Sproul, from the blog entry "I Have Friends" -
<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/i-have-friends/>

Gospel Application

Gospel Application

*Are you open to using
friendships/accountability in your life to help
you in your mortification of sin?*