

Accountability vs. Irresponsibility

The dictionary equates accountability with one who is responsible. Have you noticed, as I, the growing number of people who do not want to be made accountable to anybody or anything? They refuse to be made accountable or responsible to God and others (employers, family, church leaders, school authorities, etc.) for their actions. It seems that we want to be free spirits that do not value commitment, accountability or responsibility.

This all started in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve refused to make themselves accountable or responsible to God and were banished from the Garden.

The Bible tells us in Matthew 26:56, that the disciples all left Him at the time of His arrest. What happened to accountability and responsibility? Even the Apostle Peter denied Him three times.

The Bible tells us in Romans 14:12 - "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God."

How will we explain on judgment day our unwillingness to be held accountable or responsible to God and others?

I overheard a young person the other day say that they didn't think they would go to work that day. When asked why, their answer was that they really didn't like their boss, so that gave them the right to not go to work. I wonder what would happen to the economy, if everyone who had a difficult time with their supervisor stayed home when they felt justified to do so?

If we haven't found out already, it takes dying to the flesh to make ourselves accountable to God and those He has placed in authority over us and around us.

Ephesians 4:22-24 says this, "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your *old self*, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the *new self*, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Many of us make commitments to fulfill certain responsibilities, but because we have difficulty in rising above our old nature of the world into our new nature in Christ, we refuse by our actions to make ourselves accountable or responsible to anyone, assuming it is our right to do so. Again, misplaced priorities, preferring SELF over God.

I wonder if this isn't a basic problem in our relationship with God? We make a commitment and make ourselves accountable to Jesus Christ at salvation, but somehow we fail to connect the spiritual dots and feel we still have the right to do what we consider best for us. We want to live our own lives, seldom considering whether they line up with the Word of God or not.

No wonder we have so many confused and defeated Christians. We MUST come to the place in our walk with the Lord, that commitment, accountability and fulfilling our God ordained responsibilities are revealed through our unwavering obedience to Him, whether we feel like it or not. We either belong to Him or the world. There is NO middle ground.

John 14:15 - If you love Me, you will obey what I command.

Jesus set an example for us by making Himself totally committed, accountable and responsible in obedience to God the Father, and proved it by going to Calvary for each one of us in order to make a way past our sinful natures to spend eternity with Him.

In closing, we need to see the love, commitment, accountability and the fulfilling of his responsibility that the Apostle Paul, had with Jesus Christ our Savior. Philippians 3: 7-11 - But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Let us all make this the confession of our hearts. If we do, then like Paul, our love for Jesus Christ will motivate us in our commitment, accountability and the making of ourselves responsible to the Lord regardless of how we feel or what we consider our rights to be. WE ARE HIS, TO DO THAT WHICH PLEASES HIM, REGARDLESS OF THE COST!

What will you hear when you are judged for the life you have lived on this earth? I know I want to hear, "*Well done good and faithful servant.*"