

Accountability – Part 1

Accountability is defined as “The obligation of an individual or organization to account for its activities, accept responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent manner. It also includes the responsibility for money or other entrusted property.”

In recalling the definition above, a couple of questions arise.

- Do I give appearance of accountability while avoiding its reality?
- What is the benefit of accountability?
- Why do people generally try to evade accountability?
- How many of us perceive genuine accountability as being in our own best interest, regardless of the degree of inconvenience it may at times entail?

Here is a piece from Leadership Bible that addresses the issue of accountability:

“In 2 Kings 5:20-27, gripped by greed, Elisha’s servant Gehazi lied to Naaman the Syrian and misrepresented his master. When Elisha confronted him, he lied once again, foolishly hoping to veil his deed from the spirit of the prophet. Because of his refusal to acknowledge his desires to Elisha, Gehazi rationalized his disobedience and failed to consider the possible consequences of his actions.

Our ability to deceive ourselves is virtually boundless; that’s why accountability is so necessary. Without submitting to the counsel of others, we can rationalize almost anything, especially if what we’re doing involves a series of small compromises. Thus, accountability is needed not so much to protect us from others, but to protect us from ourselves.

Those who say that they are accountable only to God fail to realize the spheres of human authority that God has established for our good (Hebrews 13:17). Like the centurion who told Jesus, “For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me” (Matthew 8:9), we must recognize our own need to be under the authority of others.

One of the benefits of accountability is that it is consistent with the human condition that makes us more concerned about what others think than about what God thinks. But we need to remember that accountability is only as good as the information upon which it is based. Accountability without full disclosure is a waste of time.

In what area(s) of your life do you sense the greatest need for accountability? Do you have an accountability partner, someone you trust, with whom you can be totally honest and who is willing to ask you tough questions about various areas of your life?”

I desire and encourage people around me to demand accountability from me instead of making excuses for me. This desire keeps me straight as I know God uses people to convey His message or reveal human thoughts. For example, God in the past shared what He spoke to me about with others who cared enough to share same with me. I pray that you strive for accountability and help me stay accountable. Shalom.