

RELATIONSHIPS: WE NEED EACH OTHER!

(Importance of Relationships, Accountability & a Support Network)

ACCOUNTABILITY

What is an accountability relationship?

What are some important elements to a successful accountability relationship?

(vulnerability, teachability, availability, honesty, other?)

Some biblical concepts:

- a. Accountability to God is inescapable and inevitable (Mt 12:35-37; Rm 14:10-12; I Cor 3:10-15; II Cor 5:10; Heb 4:13).
- b. Accountability to spiritual leaders is commanded and is profitable to us (Heb 13:17; I Cor 16:13-16; I Thes 5:12-13; I Tim 5:17-18).
- c. Accountability to one another is helpful and healthy (Rm 12:9-16, 15:1-2,14; Gal 5:25 - 6:2; Eph 5:21).
- d. Biblical examples:
 - Jesus → God the Father
 - David → Nathan
 - Joseph → Potipher
 - Disciples → Jesus
 - Timothy → Paul
 - Paul & Barnabas → Church @ Antioch

e. Benefits:

1. We gain wisdom and are less likely to fall into a trap (Pv 13:14,20, 15:31-32)
2. We can have our character molded (Pv 27:17)
3. We are not likely to get away with sinful and unwise action (Pv 27:6)
4. We can confess and receive help (Pv 28:13; James 5:16)

ADVISORS/SUPPORT NETWORK

Biblical concepts:

- 1) God has given us “equippers” to help us be spiritually successful and to grow more like Christ (Eph 4:11-13).
- 2) Each of us is an important member/part of the body of Christ. We need to make a contribution and we benefit from the contributions of others (I Cor 12).
- 3) It is wise for us to have “advisors” and listen to the advice of others (Prov 11:14, 12:15, 13:10, 15:22, 19:20, 20:18, 24:6).
- 4) There are times when we all need a “partner(s)” to get things done and/or a “friend(s)” to encourage us (examples: Paul & Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Titus, etc.; David & Jonathon; Jesus & Peter, James & John)

Case Studies:

Paul & Titus (II Cor 2:12-13, 7:5-7)

Moses & his father-in-law Jethro (Ex 18)

DEVELOPING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Developing positive relationship is obviously essential to be successful in life. Loving people and doing good to them are important strategies to follow (I Thes 4:9-12; Gal 6:9-10). What are some other keys to developing positive relationships?