

The Responsibility of Accountability

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Holding each other accountable is one of the chief ways to ensure spiritual growth in the Christian life. Progress involves community. Isolation stunts Christlikeness. Why can accountability relationships between Christians benefit immensely? ***Here are some reasons for accountability.***

1. To Abstain from Sin.

Accountability requires honesty. Open and honest communication between like-minded Christians can greatly deter a Christian from giving into a sin. Thus, one reason for accountability relationships and the responsibility of honest friendships is in fact to abstain from sin. Accountability is not *the* solution to killing sin; God never intended it to do so. The gospel alone does this. But accountability helps in refusing to sin.

2. To Love Jesus Christ.

Christian growth involves community. To grow in Christ is to love Jesus Christ more. For Christians to grow they must learn from one another — to stimulate by one another in godliness, to provoke one another in holiness, and to encourage one another toward Paradise. Gathering together in regular, intentional, gospel-driven relationships can promote a greater conformity to Christ and a greater passion for Christ.

3. To Ponder the Gospel of Grace.

The Christian life *is* the gospel. No Christian ever moves beyond the gospel. No Christian can successfully live a day without pondering the work, worth, and wonder of Christ. To ponder the gospel of grace more regularly, Christians should frequent times together. To work consecutively through the Word of God in an accountability relationship can prompt believers to ponder Christ's work in the marvelous gospel of grace as they remind one another of His work on their behalf simply by His grace.

4. To Resolutely Walk in the Spirit.

A responsibility of an accountability relationship includes the resolve to walk in the Spirit and the deliberation to hold one another accountable for walking in the Spirit. Each accountability partner should have the opportunity to ask how he is bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Moreover, he should himself welcome the Christ-exalting scrutiny from others as to how he is walking — the sin he is fighting, struggling with, endeavoring to kill. Resolving to walk in the Spirit can be accelerated by accountability relationships.

5. To Keep Christ's Church Pure.

The purity of the Church is what Jesus demands of His people. Jesus died to make His bride holy, blameless, spotless. The church of Jesus Christ is the body of Christ. The body of Christ involve the people of Christ. Every true Christian intricately and necessarily plays a vital role within the body of Christ. To keep the church pure — and Christ's body pure — the responsibility of accountability relationships are vital.

6. To Invite the Spirit to Grant Assurance.

The Spirit can give assurance to His people not only through the sovereign work of the Spirit but also through the ongoing growth, the desire to fellowship, the longing for prayer and the encouragement of the gospel that comes from life-on-life accountability relationships. In so doing, God the Holy Spirit glorifies the Son by using the Word to assure the believer's heart of gospel-centered growth and Christ-exalting growth.