



Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

ACCOUNTABILITY to God First!

Romans 14:10-12

You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.' "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Job 31:1-4

I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl. For what is man's lot from God above, his heritage from the Almighty on high? Is it not ruin for the wicked, disaster for those who do wrong? <u>Does he not see my ways and count my every step</u>?

"Accountability is about giving an account of our sin to each other and then walking with one another to God's throne of grace."

-Luke Gilkerson

ACCOUNTABILITY to Church Matters



"An anthropologist proposed a game to African tribe kids. He put a basket full of fruit near a tree and told them that whoever got there first won the sweet fruits. When he told them to run they all took each others hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying their treats. When he asked them why they had run like that as one could have had all the fruits for himself they said: <u>UBUNTU</u>, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"

UBUNTU in the Xhosa culture means: "I am because we are." "Ang sakit ng kalingkingan, damdam ng buong katawan."

WRONG MINDSET

The church exists to <u>serve</u> my needs!

RIGHT MINDSET

The community of believers <u>shape</u> and guide my soul

(who I am and what I can become)

Genesis 4:9
Then the LORD said to Cain,
"Where is your brother
Abel?" "I don't know," he
replied. "Am I my brother's
keeper?"

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let 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.

James 5:16
Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

2 Timothy 2:22

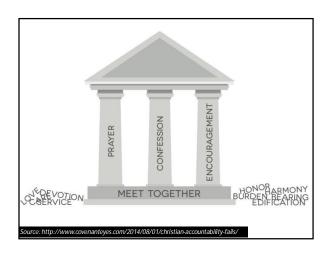
Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, <u>along with those</u> who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.



Why Accountability Fails

When accountable partners are <u>not present</u> (i.e. infrequent meetings, no interaction)

When accountability meetings become programmatic (forced activities, not organic and dynamic)

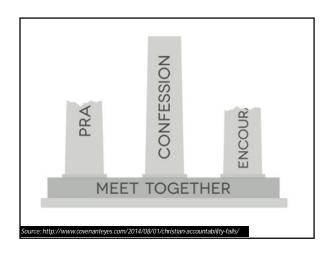


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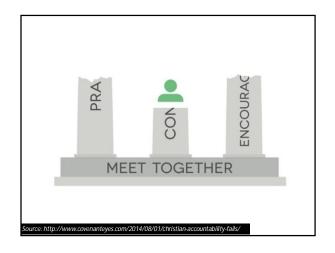
When accountability meetings become <u>programmatic</u> (forced activities, not organic and dynamic)

When <u>confession</u> becomes the end-all and be-all of accountability (sincerity-centered)



Why Accountability Fails

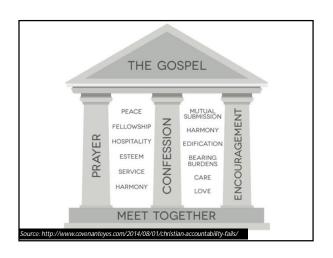
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Why Accountability Fails

When accountability becomes obedience-centered (ubermilitant against sin)

When accountability <u>forgets the</u> <u>gospel</u> (no transformation)



Confess your sins in light of the gospel. Consider sin as an affront to God's holiness. Confess your sins to God and others knowing He is faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you (1 John 1:9).

Pray together in light of the gospel. The gospel promises both grace to cover our sins (Romans 5:1-2) and grace to empower our obedience (Titus 2:11-14). Approach Christ together asking for this grace (Hebrews 4:16).

Encourage one another in light of the gospel. Complete redemption that is coming to us (Colossians 3:1-4)—we should help one another do this. We can strive together to have more of a foretaste of the holiness we are promised in the age to come.



"We are interested in others when they are interested in us."
-Publilius Syrus, Roman Poet

"The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them. Just as love of God begins with listening to his word, so the beginning of love for our brothers and sisters is learning to listen to them."



- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German theologian

Be INTENTIONAL in listening to people.

Give "undivided" attention. Be fully present.

Listen to their gestures and body language.

Hold your tongue. Remember: we have two ears and one mouth.

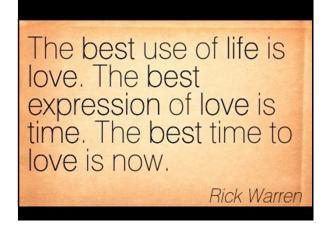
Be sensitive and discerning. **Practice empathy.**

Validate what you hear.

Confirm their thoughts by asking questions.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.







Acts 2:44-45
All the believers were together and had everything in common.
Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

"Accountability involves the art of encouragement and admonishment."

-James Bryan Smith

