

How to keep first things first-pt.1

The Problem: Many start well, but few finish well.

The Answer: *Biblical accountability.*

What is Biblical Accountability?

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

- • Its Definition: Biblical Accountability is enlisting the support of those who love me to help me keep my commitments to God.
- • Its Power:

<sup>9</sup>*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: <sup>10</sup>If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! <sup>11</sup>Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup>Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)

The Need: Why accountability is essential for spiritual success

1. Because we never outgrow the need for **PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NASB)

<sup>24</sup>*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.*

<sup>25</sup>*Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; <sup>27</sup>but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

2. Because past successes are no guarantee of **FUTURE FAITHFULNESS**.

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 (NASB)

*<sup>1</sup>For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food; <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.*

3. Because we constantly underestimate the power of our own **SINFUL PASSIONS**.

1 Corinthians 10:6-11 (NASB)

*<sup>6</sup>Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat to eat and drink and stood to play." <sup>8</sup>Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. <sup>9</sup>Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. <sup>10</sup>Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

Discussion Questions

1. In what area of your life have you recently made a commitment to God?
2. From what you learned today, how could you get help in keeping this commitment?
3. Why is accountability so essential for all of us?
4. What specific steps will you take to become accountable so you can be a finisher?
5. Did you have a different definition of biblical accountability? If so, how was it different?
6. What impact has accountability made to you personally?
7. How has accountability been a problem for you before? Why should the church encourage accountability on a regular basis?

