

How to Keep First Things First Part 2

Review from last week:

Defined Biblical Accountability: Biblical accountability is enlisting the support of those who love me, to help me keep my commitments to God. This is not getting a group of people that harass you or to make you feel guilty. It's an invitation of people into your life to help you say, "I want to be..."

Need for Biblical Accountability:

1. Because we never outgrow the need for personal accountability
2. Because past successes are no guarantee of future faithfulness.
3. Because we constantly underestimate the power of our own sinful passions.

Let's pick up this week:

4. Because we constantly overestimate our ability to handle **TEMPTATION** ¹²*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.*

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NASB)

5. Because we naively believe our struggles and temptations are **UNIQUE**.

¹³*No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

Summary: "Therefore, my beloved, flee from **IDOLATRY!**"
1 Corinthians 10:14 (NASB)

The Means: "How To" develop accountability in relationships:

- • It begins at HOME.
- • In an atmosphere of LOVE.
- • It must be voluntary and by PERMISSION.
- • It must be SPECIFIC, not generic.
- • It must be REGULAR, not sporadic.
- • No more than 4 PEOPLE.

Making sincere commitments is tough. Keeping them is next to impossible, alone. There's hope. Many start well; few finish well. You can be the exception. You can be the exception. There is no temptation taken to you, there is no trial taken to you but such is common to man, and with that temptation, God will provide a way of escape. And I'm telling you, the way to escape is that a cord of three is not easily broken.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the needs for accountability have you struggled with the most? Why was it a struggle for you to recognize the need for accountability in your life?
2. We have all failed at a point of temptation before, what are ways that you have found that help you to recognize temptation for what it is before it affects you?
3. What does it mean that our temptations are not unique? How does that change the way we view the opportunity God gives us to escape from temptation?
4. Which one of the guidelines for accountable relationships have you seen be the most challenging? Rewarding?
5. How do the guidelines help you to take a step towards forming accountable relationships?