

Principles for a Transformed Life (PTL)

Principle #3: Accountability

Accountability means to be obliged to account for one's actions, and to bear responsibility for decisions and behaviors. Synonyms include answerable, chargeable, culpable, liable, and responsible. All of these are uncomfortable words for most of us. Establishing accountability to other people is essential to long-term success in living and growing. The serious disciple must allow others to check on him and regularly speak into his life until he is stable.

- ◆ Humility is the first step to accountability. The Bible requires humility in order to receive blessing. Humility plays an important part in our relations both to God and man. According to Webster, humility is the absence of pride or self-assertion.
 - Read and think on the following: Proverbs 15:33 / Proverbs 22:4
 - True humility is not humiliation. It is simply recognizing God for who He is and deciding to bend to His will instead of our own. He will then bring about true exaltation rather than prideful self-exaltation. Continuing in pride guarantees humiliation. James 4:10 / Proverbs 16:18-19
 - 1 Peter 5:5-6 Humility toward God is marked by submission to other people.

Topics for Discussion

Give examples of situations where your pride has caused you a problem.

Give an example of someone you know whom you see as being genuinely humble. What makes you think they are humble.

- ◆ The Bible relates humility to submission. Our humility is marked by our willingness to submit to the authority of others.
 - 1 Peter 5:5 We need the oversight and wisdom of those who are older in the Lord.
 - Ephesians 5:21 We are to maintain an attitude of submission toward all believers.
 - Hebrews 13:17 We should be submitted to a local church and its leadership.
 - 1 Corinthians 16:16 We must seek to submit ourselves to those whose lives have demonstrated fruit for God.

Topics for Discussion

Many people in our day have a problem with authority. Do you? What makes you say that?

Where did your attitude toward authority come from?

- ◆ Looking for committed, accountable relationships.
 - Support groups – groups of people gathered together to help each other overcome difficulties or achieve goals.
 - Church. We need to be in church and have relationships with the people there.
 - Characteristics to look for in a church:
 - 2 Timothy 4:2 / Ephesians 4:11-12 Preaching of the Word and preparation of the people for ministry.
 - ◆ Hebrews 10:24-25 Corporate meetings which encourage love and good works.
 - ◆ 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 Empathy and concrete help for those in need or trouble.
 - ◆ 1 Corinthians 12:3-11 The presence of the Holy Spirit in all His manifestations.
 - How to establish relationships with people in churches.
 - ◆ Be in the services early and stay late.
 - ◆ Volunteer to help out.
 - ◆ Look for faithful, dependable people to hang around with.
 - Fruit inspection: Matthew 7:17-18 / Galatians 5:22-23
 - Hang with winners: Proverbs 13:20 / 1 Corinthians 15:33-34
 - ◆ Make an appointment to talk with the pastor or one of the leaders he designates and tell him our problem.

Topics for Discussion

Are you part of a local church? If not, how will you go about finding one?

Do you have relationships with people there? How about in support groups?

What things can you do to establish relationships? Be specific.

What characteristics are you looking for in someone to be a mentor to you?