

Men's Breakfast

September 12, 2015

Following Jesus every day and everywhere with everyone.

What does the word 'accountability' mean to you? What sorts of things/people are you accountable to in your life?

Spiritual Growth as a Common Starting Point

Spiritual Growth is the process of replacing falsehood with truth. –Rick Warren

- If we don't think we either **can** or **should** grow in our faith, than accountability is not worth talking about.
- We step into accountability because we believe that we are called by God to a certain kind of life.

Christian accountability is *accounting* for what we are up to. It is the realization that we are liable, responsible, and *answerable* for our *actions* in life to God and fellow believers.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

- James 1:22-25

- Spiritual growth is our aim!
- In our journey of spiritual growth, accountability helps us cast off the things that hinder us from following Jesus, as well as take on the disciplines necessary for the journey.

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13

The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are. – C.S. Lewis

What do we see in this story?

- Humility
 - David and Nathan demonstrate, not through their perfection, but in the way they interact here that ultimately they value God's Word over their own
 - Nathan is not there to share his own opinion, but rather God's word for David
 - David receives Nathan as the bearer of God's word for his life
- Boldness/Sheer honesty

- Nathan does not pull any punches. He tells David the full word that God has given him without flattery.
- Repentance
 - David responds to Nathan's criticism, recognizes his sin, names himself as sinner, and turns from the sin.
- Assurance
 - Nathan ends up acting as the medium through which David is assured of God's grace.

Do we have this in our lives? If not, why?

Well meant are the wounds a friend inflicts, but profuse are the kisses of an enemy.
 -Proverbs 27:6

We need people who know us deeply, that will speak truth into our lives.

But what should we look for?

1. Total Honesty – Things can't be addressed that aren't known.
2. Shared Values – The same center and standard for our lives.
 - a. So important. If I'm struggling with a porn addiction/habit then it isn't going to do me much good having someone keep me accountable who doesn't share my value of holiness in the way I look and interact with women.
3. Unwavering Loyalty/ Staying Power – In a transient city like LA, its important to look for people who will stay when its tough; people who have the potential to walk through life with you.
4. Confidentiality – You won't be honest if you are scared it won't be held tightly.
5. Prayer and Affirmation – accountability isn't just about trying to help each other not do something. It is also about being committed to bring each other before Jesus, and encourage each other on the journey.