

## “ACCOUNTABILITY”

**DEFINITION OF ACCOUNTABILITY:** The biblical principle that each person is answerable to God and responsible for his actions. (Roman 14:12) Accountability also involves the obligation to act with love toward fellow believers (Rom. 14:15-19)

For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good words from a good heart, and an evil person produces evil words from an evil heart. And I tell you this, that you must give an account on judgment day of every idle word you speak. The words you say now reflect your fate then; either you will be justified by them or you will be condemned. (Matthew 12:35-37)

Jesus reminds us that what we say reveals what is in our hearts. What kinds of words come from your mouth? That is an indication of what your heart is really like. You can't solve your heart problem; however, just by cleaning up your speech. You must allow the Holy spirit to fill you with new attitudes and motives, then your speech will be cleansed at its source.

So why do you condemn another Christian? Why do you look down on another Christian. Remember, each of us will stand personally before the judgment seat of **God**. As surely as I live, says the lord, every knee will bow to me and every tongue will allegiance to **God**. Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to **God**. So don't condemn each other anymore. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not put an obstacle in another Christian's path. (Romans 14:10-12)

Each person is accountable to Christ, not to others. While the church must be uncompromising in its stand activities that are expressly forbidden by Scripture (adultery, homosexual acts, murder, - theft), it should not create additional rules regulations and give them equal standing with God's law. Many times Christians base their moral judgments on opinion, personal dislikes, or cultural bias rather on the Word of **God**. When they do this, they show that their own faith is weak, they do not think that God is powerful enough to guide his children. When we stand before God's court of justice (judgment seat), we won't be worried about what our Christian neighbor has done (see 2 Cor. 5:10)

**IF YOU LOVE THE LORD AND WORK FAITHFULLY TO HONOR GOD WITH YOUR LIFE, EVEN YOUR WEAKNESSES WILL BE AREAS OF STRENGTH - FOR THEY WILL GLORIFY GOD.**

The one who sins is the one who dies. The child will not be punished for the parent's sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child's sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own goodness, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness. (Ezekiel 18:30)

Ezekiel's solution to the problem of inherited guilt is for each person to have a changed life. This is God's work in us and not something we can do for ourselves The Holy Spirit does it. (Psalm 51:10-12). If we renounce our life's direction of sin and rebellion and turn to God, he will give us a new direction, a new love, and a new power to change. You can begin by faith, trusting in God's power to change your heart and mind. Then determine to live each day with him in control (Ephesians 4:22-24)

I am warning you! If another believer sins, rebuke him; then if he repents, forgive him. Even if he wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns and asks forgiveness, forgive him. (Luke 17:3,4)

To rebuke does not mean to point out every sin we see; it means to bring sin to a person's attention with the purpose of restoring him or her to God and to fellow humans, When you feel you must rebuke another Christian for a sin, check Do you love the person? Are you willing to forgive?