Accountability

Introduction: Harry S. Truman was the 33rd President of the United States. He was FDR’s vice president when he died. President Truman will always have a special place in history. He was the first person to use the atomic bomb. He ordered the bombing of two Japanize cities. He realized he would be judged by future generations for his decision. One of his most famous quotes “The buck stops here”. He also said, “If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.” Accountability is important for it is connected to maturity, repentance, confession, and other important Christian virtues.

**I) What It Is and Is Not, Genesis 4.4-15**

**A) Accountability**

1. Taking ownership of your decisions and actions.

2. Admitting ones faults, taking responsibility. Joshua 24.15

3. Has been replaced by “Don’t judge me” and “It’s not my fault”, “its everybody’s fault” “society is to blame”.

**B) What it isn’t**

1. Passing the buck by blaming others. Even though others may share some of the blame**, Matthew 18.6-7**

a. Someone may tempt you, try your patience but accountability says you own what you are or have done.

2. Refusing the pay the cost of doing wrong. Repentance is paying the price. **Luke 13.3.**

**II) Part of Accountability Is Recognizing Who You Are Accountable To.**

**A) God – society may not hold you accountable but God will. . Proverbs 20.11. Matthew 6.25-26**

1. **Ecclesiastes 12.13-14** you cannot escape your responsibility to God. : **Daniel 5.25ff; Pilate Matthew 27.28**

2. **Luke 12.2-3** you cannot hide or conceal your life and thoughts before God.

3. **John 5.28-29** there is a recording of your life before God.

4. How we conduct ourselves around others, **Romans 14.10-12.**

**B) We are accountable to “am I my brother’s keeper”**

1. Our families – to keep ourselves pure and love them in the way the Bible describes.

2. Our brothers and sisters in Christ. **Hebrews 10.24-25.**

a. **Galatians 6.1-3** to those in sin.

b. To forgive one another, **Luke 17.3.**

c. To not put a stumbling block before others.

**III) What Are We Accounntable For**

**A) What we say, Matthew 12.36**

1. It is a scary thought that our words can condemn us. Think carefully or what you say and how you say it. **Philippians 2.14-15.**

2. Aaron and Miriam was struck with leprosy because the grumbled against Moses, **Numbers 12.**

**B) What you do or don’t do, 2 Corinthians 10.5.**

1. Thoughts must be backed up with actions. A person who says “I will try to do better” had better try to do better.

2. Doing the will of God is important.

**C) What you have and what you do with it, 2 Corinthians 8.12.**

1. Not everyone has the same talents and abilities.

2. God knows yours and He knows if you are using them wisely or not.

3. Wonder how God will judge us as we are a very prosperous nation and have much freedom.

**D) What can be done, James 3.13; 4.17.**

1. What more could I be doing in service to God?

2. Don’t pass the buck by looking at what others are or aren’t doing.

**E) What is taught or not taught, James 3.1**

1. Every teacher should recognize the immense opportunity they have to do good or harm.

2. Every Gospel preacher, every Bible class teacher, every Christian.

Conclusion: David is a great example of accountability. He sinned against God by committing adultery and murder. When confronted he said “I have sinned” **2 Samuel 12.13.** David paid the price, took ownership, and served God.