

Accountability

One dictionary gives the definition of accountability as the obligation of an individual or an organization to account for its activities, accept responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent manner.

Men can appear to be accountable and yet be as fake as a three dollar bill. Deep inside our hearts we desire to be valued, respected, and well thought of. What people really see in us, much of the time, is a fabrication of our own creation coming out of our natural man's desire to be recognized as a "good ole boy".

This "good ole boy" mentality leans heavily on a self righteous identity that has been created by self. It even looks pretty good to those that see it manifesting in a man's life. The "good ole boy" mentality is the religion of the man that desires to be known as a good man. That doesn't appear to be bad until you see it as the idol worship that it is.

Wanting to be known as a good man outside of the reality of who is truly good – God, is simply man creating a god out of the idea that he formed in his own mind. In Second Corinthians 4: 4 we read, "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God". Based on that, we can see the origination of the "good ole boy" mentality donned on unbelievers in Jesus Christ, came from the god-of-this-world.

When the "good ole boy" mentality becomes a driving force in a man's life, it has become a god formed in his own mind that now rules him. He might not physically bow his knee to it, but obviously he follows it wherever it takes him. "You shall have no other gods before you" was the first of the Ten Commandments, and that would include the little gods of our own making.

An authentic man is accountable first to God, and second to other men, and is by the grace of God, in process of becoming transparent through and through. Accountability can only become a real possibility when a man recognizes that he can't be righteous, in himself and that someone else paid a price to become his righteousness. Man no longer has a justifiable excuse before God to hide from the righteousness that was meant to be imparted into his life. If he does so he remains a rebel regardless of what he professes to believe about Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:10 says "As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away; they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good; not even one."

The grace of God is the only thing that provides opportunity for a man to become right in his heart. I didn't say perfected in self. I said right - justified in his heart. Righteousness isn't something that resides inside of the natural man. To experience righteousness requires a spiritual revelation of the need for Jesus Christ to come into our heart and life.

When Jesus Christ deposits himself into our life, He imparts righteousness, true value, and an authentic identity.

In Romans 3:20 says “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law: rather, through the law we become conscious of sin”. Becoming conscious and honest about the sin in our heart to ourselves, to God, and to other men is a step toward becoming an authentic man that is truly accountable.

In Romans 3:21-26 says “But now righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus”.

Romans 4:7-8 says, “Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.”

- Becoming an authentic man begins by recognizing and being honest about the sin in our heart, to ourselves, to God, and to other men.
- The grace of God holds nothing back from us in our pursuit to experience forgiveness, justification, and restoration. It is available to all that desire it. Jesus became sin for us. He paid the total price for our redemption and restoration.
- There is a new birth, a spiritual change that happens when we turn from our sins and ask Jesus Christ to come into our life. The Spirit of God sows the seed of righteousness into our spirit when we become born again. From that the authentic man can grow as he continues to relate to God and to other men of God.
- True accountability is a result of experiencing an inward spiritual transformation in relationship with Jesus Christ; it springs forth from the righteousness of Jesus Christ. It can't be fabricated or manufactured by the natural man.
- A man that is forgiven, justified and righteous in Jesus Christ is a blessed man. Accountability and transparency naturally arise in him when Jesus Christ comes alive in his life.

As you can see there is quite a bit to this subject of Accountability. It starts with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. HE will lead you forward in becoming an authentic man of God that is truly accountable.

GOD BLESS!!! EDWARD (DOUG) HOBELMAN – SENIOR MINISTER - OSU INC.