

Accountable Relationships

I. Scripturally God is wanting to gather a people who are not only rooted and established in relationship to Him, but are properly related to each other in the Body Of Christ.

A. God's purpose in relationship is to bring His children to maturity in Christ.

1. You have been delivered from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of God.
Colossians 1:13

2. **And from this present evil age - Galatians 1:3.**

a. You must not let the influence of either to press you into its mold - Romans 12:1-2

b. Instead you are to be conformed to the image of Christ - Romans 8:29.

c. You are incapable of escaping the influences of this world alone.

3. **As Christians we make the mistake in overestimating the power of the will of a regenerated person.**

a. You take for granted that because you know God's will, that you will do God's will. That because you have knowledge that you will automatically act on it.

b. Over and over again, I discover in my own Christian walk that no matter how much I know and how badly I may want to walk in all that I know, I cannot trust myself to actually do it.

4. **This is the basis for your need for godly relationships.**

a. You need to be related to people who will help you, either by encouragement or correction to walk in what you know.

b. In order to walk in what you know you need to be related to people who will confront you with the gap between your information and your walk

B. We are mutually dependent on each other.

1. Matthew 5:14 - The "you" is not a singular "you," but a plural "you."

2. It's the combination of your relationship with God and with each other that will produce the kind of influence and light that will cause unbelievers to glorify God.

3. **Until we learn that we are mutually dependent on each other and that we need each other, we will never become that "city set on a hill."**

4. We are each saved by our individual decisions, but our salvation is worked out with each other and amongst each other.

C. The question that has to be answered is this, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Genesis 4:1-9.

1. In verse 9 - God asks Cain a question.

a. It’s a question that both God and Cain know the answer to.

b. Cain evades the truth by answering with another question.

c. Cain’s question became God’s answer.

2. I believe that God is still asking the question today, “Where is your brother?”

a. To answer this question we need to take time and try to locate where our brother is.

b. Once we locate him, we have the responsibility to do something about it.

1) “Responsibility” is two words put together, respond & ability.

2) God wants to help us develop the ability to respond redemptively to the things that we find when we locate our brother. Hebrews 12:15

3) “Accountability” means that I have become personally responsible for your growth and you have become personally responsible for mine.

4) “Accountability” means that I give you the right to ask me about anything in my life, to meddle in my affairs, and to mind my business.

D. Receiving Correction

1. If you can see how God uses correction to bless your life, then you will be one who has learned the secret of loving his critic.

a. Proverbs 10:17 - *“He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, But he who forsakes reproof goes astray.”*

“People who accept correction are on the pathway to life, but those who ignore it will lead others astray.” NLT

“People who listen when they are corrected will live, but those who will not admit that they are wrong are in danger.” TEV

1) The Hebrew word for “instruction” is “muwcar” which means a verbal chastening or correction that serves as warning against actual damage.

- 2) The Hebrew word for “reproof” is “*towkechah*” which means a rebuke designed to bring correction to some aspect of your life
- 3) **One serves as a warning the other serves as a solution.**
- b. Proverbs 12:1 - “*Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is stupid.*”
“Anyone who loves knowledge wants to be told when he is wrong. It is stupid to hate being corrected.” TEV
- c. Proverbs 13:10 - “*Through presumption comes nothing but strife, But with those who receive counsel is wisdom.*” NAS

Proverbs 15:10 - “Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.” KJV

Proverbs 13:18 - “*Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, But he who regards reproof will be honored.*”

Proverbs 15:5 - “But he who regards reproof is prudent.”

Proverbs 15:31-32 - “*He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.*”

Proverbs 27:5-6 - “Better to correct someone openly than to let him think you don't care for him at all. A friend means well, even when he hurts you. But when an enemy puts his arm around your shoulder--watch out!” TEV

Proverbs 27:17 - “*People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron.*” TEV

Proverbs 17:10 - “An intelligent person learns more from one rebuke than a fool learns from being beaten a hundred times.” TEV

Psalm 141:5 - “*Let the godly strike me! It will be a kindness! If they reprove me, it is soothing medicine. Don't let me refuse it.*” NLT

2. **If you forsake correction, you go astray; if you avoid it, you are stupid; if you presume you don't need it, you will end up in strife; if you hate it, you will die.**
3. But if you receive it, there will be wisdom and honor; you will be prudent, you will come into knowledge, you will be on the path of life, it is a sign of friendship, it's a means to learning wisdom and it is a medicine.

E. Giving Correction - Six things that qualifies one to give correction.

1. You must not give until you are willing to receive

2. In giving reproof very often you will see in others things that are a reflection of yourself.
 - a. **One of the ways that God uses other people is to you to see in them the things that He wants to deal with in you.**

- b. Story of Jacob and Laban

3. **Reproof is not a general ministry where you walk through the body reproofing people.**

- a. It's not listed either as a gift, calling or ministry.

- b. **What's your ministry brother, "I am a reprover."**

Proverbs 26:17 - "Like one who takes a dog by the ears is he who passes by and meddles with strife not belonging to him."

- c. **In other words keep your nose out of what isn't your business**

4. Ephesians 4:15 - Speaking the truth in love.

- a. **Love has got to be established, and the more severe rebuke the deeper the love.**

- b. If you haven't built someone up, you have no business tearing them down.

5. **Learn how to reprove in Wisdom**

- a. Proverbs 25:11-12 - "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear." KJV

Proverbs 15:2 - "The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable."

- b. The story of Abigail and David - 1 Samuel 25:23-35

- c. **Paul was great at this - 1 Corinthians 1:1-10**

6. **Be patient**

Proverbs 28:23 - "He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with the tongue."