

Love is the overriding principle Christ calls us to in all our relationships. John 14:23-24

Accountability is a key factor for spiritual growth.
Hebrews 12:7

Accountability starts with you.
Luke 6:37

A Christ follower loves enough to hold each other accountable. Romans 12:9-18, Romans 14:1-14

- **In relationship, accountability sounds like and feels like encouragement.**
- **Without relationship, accountability sounds like and feels like judgement.**

In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity (love) – Martin Luther

Beware of the unteachable man, he's dangerous.
Proverbs 9:7-9, Proverbs 10:8, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 17:16,
Proverbs 18:2, Proverbs 23:9

Food for thought: Talking over the message helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps.

The Pharisees often placed their cultural teachings and man-made rules on equal footing with the teachings of the Bible. Jesus responded to this practice in Mark 7:1-13. Read it and then answer the questions below.

What does he say are some of the results of elevating tradition and man-made rules to the level of the Bible?

As you look at your own life, are there any areas where you've allowed some tradition or man-made rule to have as much authority as the Bible?

it's okay to have personal rules for how you live, but we need to be careful not to expect others to live by those same rules. We saw Paul's suggestions in Romans 14:1-23 for working through the kinds of issues that often divide Christians. As you re-read this passage, respond to the statements below.

Identify each of the controversial issues that the Roman church was dealing with and their impact on the church.

Identify the remedies Paul gives to work through the issues so unity can be restored.

If you have ever seen or found yourself in a similar situation, what did you find helpful in the way it was handled? What did you wish would have happened differently based on this passage?

Questions to ask to be accountable to one another for spiritual growth.

1. How is your relationship with God right now?
2. What have you read in the Bible in the past week?
3. What has God said to you in this reading?
4. Where do you find yourself resisting Him these days?
5. What specific things are you praying for in regard to yourself?
6. What are the specific tasks facing you right now that you consider incomplete?
7. What habits intimidate you?
8. What have you done to play?
9. How are you doing with your spouse? Kids?
10. If I were to ask your spouse about your state of mind, state of spirit, state of energy level, what would the response be?
11. Are you sensing spiritual attacks from the enemy right now?
12. If Satan were to try to invalidate you as a person or as a servant of the Lord, how might he do it?
13. What is the state of your sexual perspective? Tempted? Dealing with fantasies? Entertainment?
14. Where are you financially right now? (things under control? under anxiety? in great debt?)
15. Are there any unresolved conflicts in your circle of relationships right now?
16. When was the last time you spent time with a good friend of your own gender?
17. What kind of time have you spent with anyone who is a non-Christian this month?
18. What challenges do you think you're going to face in the coming week? Month?
19. What would you say are your fears at this present time?
20. Are you sleeping well?
21. What three things are you most thankful for?
22. Do you like yourself at this point in your spiritual growth?
23. What are your greatest confusions about your relationship with God?