

## **Staying Accountable**

**Yes, all of you be submitted one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble (2 Peter 5:5).**

### **Accountable to the Holy Spirit**

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14; John 16:13-15; Matthew 6:33)

The most important one to remain accountable to is God. We have a divine commission as well as an absolute responsibility to listen to and obey the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is always going to continue to minister the things of the Kingdom to us such as joy and peace (Romans 14:17). In turn we should be ministering the same to our families. If we fail here we cannot just ignore it but must ask for forgiveness from all that had to suffer the consequences of our wrong behavior. If we will continue to hold forth our responsibility to the Holy Spirit then we will walk in love towards everyone and especially those of our own household. We must all be patient with one another but at the same time encourage each other in the proper conduct. Many times it will be essential for us to patiently help others in our households with the ability to walk through stressful and challenging situations without falling apart.

### **Accountable to the Ministry**

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17).

It is essential that our households recognize the important role of ministry. God set the ministry gifts into the church so that we could receive those things that He has supplied to us. Without them we will not be strengthened, matured and perfected in all the will of God. Think of how much our households are going to miss out on if they refuse to recognize the essential need for this ministry. We will look for the ability to have a home that is a sanctuary and relationships that are in keeping with the kingdom of God but will be without the ability to have them. Therefore, in recognizing the provision that God has supplied so that we may enjoy all of His blessings in our lives we must be responsible to submit to the instruction that these men of God supply to us by the Holy Ghost!

### **Accountable to the Church**

And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican (Matthew 18:17).

Both Peter and Paul are examples of submission to the church. After Peter was directed by the Lord Jesus to go to the house of Cornelius he had to give an account to the church (Acts 11:1-11). He had both the witness of the Lord Jesus who appeared to him in a vision and the witness of the Holy Spirit who baptized the house of Cornelius and yet he still had to give an account to the church who was questioning this event. Although Jesus

appeared to Paul and commissioned him for the great work that he was to do, Paul submitted himself to the church who first sent him to Tarsus (Acts 9:30). Later, Barnabas was allowed to go and bring him back to Antioch (Acts 11:25). Paul's ministry was recognized and launched by the local church that he was in at Antioch (Acts 13:2). Then when Paul found himself up against others who were speaking things contrary to what he was preaching went and submitted himself to the church at Jerusalem so that the issues could be decided by them (Acts 15: 1-28). Paul submitted himself to the church so that he would not run nor labor in vain (Galatians 2:1-2)

### **Wife Accountable to her Husband**

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord (Colossians 3:18).

The spirit of rebellion has made this the primary target against women. God provided for the woman a glorious place of safety and protection and Satan distorts the truth to make it look like domination and oppression. Submission and accountability is a protection and a defense that all should have wisdom and insight to recognize. Eve stepped out from the leadership of Adam who had communicated the word of the Lord to her and when she did she was overthrown by the powers of darkness. Satan will overthrow our lives individually if he can overthrow the word of God in our lives. Therefore, it is his strategy against to erode and discredit the word of God. The feminist movement is an attack against women like pornography is against men. Both are snares set by spiritual wickedness to ultimately destroy both body and soul in hell.

Too many women feel comfortable sharing their problems with a friend while neglecting to realize that their help will come from the proper place of accountability. Women must be both willing and comfortable with sharing their problems with their husbands. There is nobody on their side like their own husband. There is no one that the Lord will give the gift of counsel and wisdom to like a woman's own husband. Satan will do everything he can to make this look like the last resort even though it truly is the only place of real help and assistance. Next to the Lord Jesus your husband should be your best and dearest friend.

### **Husbands Accountable to his Wife**

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered (1 Peter 3:7; Malachi 2:14).

It is important that each man recognize that his wife is the handmaiden of the Lord. In fact, she is the Lord's first and yours secondly. She is the one person that the Lord chose for you and through that choice you obtained favor from the Lord (Proverbs 18:22). She is God's best for you and you can be certain that God will hold you responsible for how you treat those gifts that He gives to you.

In recognition of who your wife is: that she is an heir of the grace of life, that she is the gift of God to you and that she has been filled with the Holy Spirit then the husband should recognize that there is none that he can more safely confide in and look to for

support than his one wife. Satan works in the darkness when we shine the light on things and bring them out into the open then we can confidently look for forgiveness, healing and strength. We can also come to realize a support and help that will keep us from being overcome with things that are laying in wait to deceive and to destroy. Next to the Lord Jesus your wife should be your best and dearest friend.

Jas 5:16\* Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

### **Scripture References:**

Romans 8: 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

John 16:13-15 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Acts 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Heb 13:17\* Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Ga 2:2\* And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Eph 5:22\* Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Col 3:18\* Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

Acts 11:1-2 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,

Acts 15:2\* When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15:28\* For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

Pr 18:22\* Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.