

Relationship Skill #5: Accountability

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“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)

The 5th key relationship skill is one of the most talked about and, at the same time, one of the least practiced skills amongst Christians. We have now come to the important skill of “accountability.”

Despite the talk of “accountability partners” and “holding people accountable,” most Christians are either overly judgmental or conflict avoidant. Accountability seems like it should be fairly straight-forward, but instead it proves to be rather complicated. Here are a few reasons why accountability is difficult to do well...

Reason #1: We don’t have agreements. It is unfair and unhealthy to hold someone accountable when they have not agreed to that given behavior in the first place. Whether the agreement is formal (like a contract) or informal (like a handshake), clear expectations must precede accountability.

Reason #2: We confuse authority and accountability. Whereas authority relies on the power to direct performance and enforce consequences, accountability is built on mutual agreement and commitment. Relationships work far better when they are empowered by trust than when they are motivated by fear.

Reason #3: The misuse of authority leads to fear. Many of us have seen or experienced abuse, arrogance, or frustration imposed on Christians in the name of “accountability.” To implement this relational skill better, we will have to push past these misrepresentations and try again.

Accountability is an important skill needed to stir one another up to love and good works.
May God gives us the grace and strength to grow this skill into a strength.