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# A Letter from Pastor Chris

Dear Friend,

Accountability is a spiritual discipline that is often neglected. We are reluctant to place ourselves in a relationship that requires us to be transparent and vulnerable.

The Christian faith is not to be lived out in isolation from other believers. People sometimes say, "I don't have to go to church to be a Christian." To which I respond, "No, but you can't be a healthy maturity Christian without other believers."

As you prayerfully consider becoming an accountability partner, remember these things...

- Select accountability partners from within your small group.
- Select accountability partners of the same gender.
- Accountability groups should only be 2-3 people.
- Accountability must be mutual and not one-sided.

It is my prayer that you will develop Christ-honoring relationships that will produce spiritual fruit in your life!

for the Gospel,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Chris



# SECTION ONE:

## What Makes a Good Accountability Partner?

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We are not intended to live our Christian lives alone. We are to be part of a community known as the local church. It's in the context of a local church that strategic relationships emerge with opportunities to provide deep personal care. Overall, these relationships are meant to help us to follow Jesus faithfully.

So, what makes a good accountability partner? And, how can we be helpful to our brothers and sisters? Here are some important traits.

### 1. **Converted.**

It is important that your accountability partner is a follower of Christ. While we can certainly learn from non-Christians, the goal of Christian accountability is to become a more faithful follower of Christ where all involved are seeking the same.

### 2. **Commitment.**

Bearing the burdens of others is no easy task (cf. Gal. 6:1-2). It requires personal care of others through the messiness of life. In the moments of despair, having another believer personally helping you through will be a great encouragement.

### 3. **Conviction.**

It's of utmost importance that accountability partners believe the Bible is God's Word. A good accountability partner doesn't offer their opinion, but offers the very Word of God. Therefore, we must know the Word of God to offer the Word of God.

### 4. **Character.**

Everyone struggles with something. However, it is important for accountability partners to demonstrate maturity in their walk with Christ. If accountability partners both struggle with the same sin, they will find it difficult to help one another conquer a sin they themselves have not yet had victory.

## **5. Courage.**

Accountability partners need to be courageous enough not to shy away from confrontation. It takes courage to say, "Here's what I'm seeing, and this is what God's Word says."

## **6. Clarity.**

Accountability partners are not the Savior nor are they the Holy Spirit. On occasion, we might be tempted to fear our accountability partner more than we fear God. This is not helpful, because it was a lack of fear of God that got us into sin in the first place (Rom. 3:18). There's also the temptation to cling to the accountability partner like they are the Savior. The helpful accountability partner understands and has clarity in their role. With humility, they will regularly point their friend back to God and His sufficient grace.

## **7. Compassion.**

Accountability partners who are reflecting Christ, are compassionate helpers. If accountability partners are aiming to render gospel-centric service, then they must reflect His compassion. Like Jesus, we must have a heart that breaks over sin. Our eyes must be full of love and compassion as we teach those who are struggling with sin (Matt. 9:35ff).

In short, a good accountability partner is someone who's working hard to follow Jesus and willing to help others to do the same.

Source: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/erik-raymond/makes-good-accountability-partner/> (accessed: August 7, 2019).

# SECTION TWO:

## What Makes a Good Accountability Question?

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The author of Hebrews gives us some insight into living a life of faith after we have accepted Christ. In fact, he gives us a list of three things that are benefits of accountability. The list can be identified with the words "let us." These three insights can serve as a guide to developing meaningful accountability questions.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> **let us** draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> **Let us** hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. <sup>24</sup> And **let us** consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:19-25)

So, what makes a good accountability question? Here are some guiding principles.

### 1. Perspective.

"Let us draw near with a true heart..." (Heb. 10:22).

Accountability provides truth to your perspective. A good accountability partner will ask questions to help you see the truth of Scripture and develop a biblical perspective of the challenges you are facing. Sometimes we don't see things clearly and we need someone else to point out the hard truths.

"Wounds from a friend are better than kisses from an enemy" Proverbs 27:6.

### 2. Healing.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope..." (Heb. 10:23).

Accountability provides hope when your hurting. A good accountability partner will ask questions to help you see the faithfulness of God and find hope in the situation. The

role of the accountability partner is not to make someone feel guilty, but to offer hope. The right questions will produce a sense of hope in Christ.

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” James 5:16.

### **3. Direction.**

“Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,...” (Heb. 10:24).

Accountability provides insight into your decisions. A good accountability partner will ask questions that will help you toward making better choices. These questions are to prompt us toward a fruitful walk with Christ.

“Fools think they don't need advice, but the wise listen to others” Proverbs 12:15.

The right accountability questions will then bring perspective, healing, and direction for living a life of faith.



# SECTION THREE:

## Sample Accountability Questions

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### John Wesley's Small Group Questions

John Wesley developed a list of 22 small group questions over 200 years ago. His small group asked these questions of each other every single day! Feel free to adapt them to your accountability group. Add more questions, take questions out, or change the wording of a question. Make the questions relevant to your accountability group.

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?

19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

### **Suggested Accountability Questions**

Here are some questions grouped by category that might be helpful as you develop your accountability questions.

#### **Questions About Your Personal Walk with Christ**

1. How was your devotional walk with Christ this week?
2. What did God teach you this week from time in His Word?
3. What has consumed your prayers this week?
4. Is there anything you have held back from God that you need to surrender?

#### **Questions About Your Personal Struggles**

1. Have you given into addictive behavior this week? Explain.
2. What temptations overpowered you this week?
3. How did you deal with those temptations?
4. What are you doing to make better choices this week?

#### **Questions About Your Personal Witness for Christ**

1. Have you shared your faith with anyone this week?
2. Who is someone that you are praying for their salvation?
3. What are you doing this week to share your faith?
4. Have you said or done anything that damaged your witness for Christ?

### **Questions About Your Family Relationships**

1. How is your marriage? Explain.
2. How are your children? Explain.
3. How can you honor Christ in your family this week?

### **Questions About Your Business Dealings**

1. Was your language Christ-honoring at work this week?
2. Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings this week?
3. Have you damaged your testimony or the name of Christ through your actions around others?

# SECTION FOUR:

## My Accountability Plan

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### My Accountability Group

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### My Accountability Questions

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