Personal Accountability

Tony Mauck · 2 Corinthians 6:11–13

INTRODUCTION

- Others play a significant role in our spiritual progress and maturity.
- We are imparting counsel to each other, but there are limits to what we can do for one another.
- The capacity to take responsibility for one's actions, conduct, obligations, and decisions without excuses.

1 What We Do Matters

2 Corinthians 5:10–11; Acts 24:25; 2 Corinthians 12:20–21

- For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord or the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.
- Paul's warning about the judgment speaks to our personal responsibility and should cause us to shudder. What we do matters.
- There are some powerful motivations to respond appropriately in personal accountability. There is the astounding love of God, the hope of immortality, the exalting nature of obedience.

2 Restrained in Your Own Affections

2 Corinthians 6:11–13; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Isaiah 5:20

- Our mouth has spoken freely to you. O Corinthians, our heart is open wide.
- You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections. All spiritual problems can be traced to this.
- Somehow they have become convinced that Paul is disingenuous.
- He makes bad things look good. He makes good things look bad. That's what he's doing at Corinth. That's what he still does.

3 The Limitations of God's Leaders

Proverbs 27:17; 2 Corinthians 1:12

- No matter how effective God's leaders are, no matter how well the shepherds do their work, no matter how well the preacher preaches, there is a limit to what God's leaders can do.
- People are always looking for some kind of magic fix for their spiritual ills.
- But dedicated service can only go so far.

4 Your Will Is Under Your Control

Luke 17:1–2; Isaiah 59:1–2

- Your will is under your control. And your control only.

- He could not make them love him any more than the elders can make you love them or me make you love me.
- So often in this matter of personal accountability and taking full responsibility, people want to blame other people for their failure.
- But still, you're the one that stumbled. It was still the result of your deeds and choices that you would wind up in this predicament.

5 Preaching Has Its Limits

John 7:46; Isaiah 55:6–7

- If you're looking for some eloquent and persuasive message to make you feel something for God, it is likely going to come up short.
- The most powerful sermons that have ever been preached were rejected by the majority.
- We will all have temptations that we have to overcome, and nobody can do that for you.
- Take full responsibility. Regardless of what the other one does. I'm going to do what's right.

6 Only One Formula for Breaking the Practice of Sin

2 Corinthians 7:8–10; 2 Corinthians 13:5–7

- And only one formula exists for breaking the practice of sin.
- For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation. But the sorrow of the world produces death.
- There is a difference between acknowledging our wrong and expressing the godly sorrow that leads to repentance.
- The godly sorrow that produces repentance will mean a change in that person's life. And that's the only way the problems in our will can be fixed.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you in a right relationship with the Lord? Are you fervently devoted to him?

MY NOTES