

Men's Accountability Group Questions



Purpose:

The Christian life is meant to be lived in authentic community, not isolation (James 5:16). We are not our own, we belong to Christ (1 Cor. 6:19). Being a disciple of Jesus Christ and making disciples of Jesus Christ is intrinsic to the Christian faith and involves accountable living (Matt. 28:16-20).

Goal:

The primary goal is to grow in Christ likeness (1 Cor. 11:1), make every effort towards righteousness (2 Peter 1:5), and become more effective soldiers of the cross (2 Tim. 2:1-7). We do this humbly trusting in the finished work of the cross (1 John 1:8-10) for our salvation and NOT in our good works (1 Cor. 1:26-31). Salvation is a free gift, yet at the same time we are called to do all we can to grow in Christlikeness and obedience (2 Peter 1:5-11); we take this seriously. We also understand that everything we do comes from the heart (Luke 6:43-45), and so we seek to discern the heart motive behind sinful actions. By God's grace, we work to: uproot sin and replace it with obedience, uproot doubt and replace it with faith, uproot lies and replace them with the truth. We do this using the Word of God as the final authority, and the Holy Spirit's influence in understanding and discerning all matters (Heb. 4:12-13). We work hard at this (Matt. 5:6) while depending fully on the power of God for our sanctification.

How:

Weekly discipleship and accountability meetings in which we: fellowship (e.g. share a meal and life), explore truth (Bible), examine our heart motives and actions (through probing questions and willing transparency), confess sin (quick to confess any hidden sin regardless if the questions below cover it or not), call each other up towards Christ likeness, and pray for specific areas in our lives and family. Be sure that the GOSPEL (humility, repentance, relationship, and increasing dependence on Christ) is the means through which we grow and NOT some legalistic approach (pride, self-achievement, religion, and independence). Use the questions below as a guide for weekly accountability. It may not be necessary to read each question each week, because after a while you will "know" what you need to confess. Feel free to add your own questions if that is helpful. Whenever you feel things getting into a rut, change things up to keep them fresh without losing sight of the purpose.

What happens to my personal autonomy and privacy?

Accountability is not authority. Each man is independently accountable to God and therefore must be captain of his own ship and head of his home and thus is not under the authority of his accountability group (Heb. 9:27). No man should act contrary to what is right in order to satisfy his accountability partners. However, accountability does involve moral transparency. Choosing to be part of this group is choosing to relinquish personal privacy in every moral area of your life. This includes: thoughts (e.g. lust), motivations (e.g. selfishness), words (e.g. foul language), actions (e.g. neglecting relationships), and decisions (e.g. taking another job for impure reasons). We do not compartmentalize our lives into "secular" and "sacred," nor do we make unaccountable decisions. Every area of life must come under the authority of God (Ex. 20:3-4). Discipleship involves a process of spurring others towards Christlikeness, exposing and repenting of hidden sin, and pressing ahead as soldiers of the cross. It also includes helping each other make wise decisions (Prov. 11:14) and giving careful thought to our steps (Prov. 14:15). If you choose to be accountable, there can be no areas of moral autonomy because that may work to harbour the enemy who may launch a surprise attack when the man least expects it. If a man wants to be unaccountable or "remain private" about even just one moral area of his life, it is better for him to not be part of the group because it is better to know one is choosing "not be accountable" than for one to live in an illusion of accountability.

"...turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers..." Malachi 4:6

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The questions below are completely inadequate on their own, but they can be useful to start the process of accountability. Start and end with prayer because our only hope is in God. Use these questions with a humble heart, seeking transparency, and it will be fruitful. Using them with a proud heart will lead to regret. The idea is to confess any hidden sin that needs to be exposed regardless if the questions cover that area or not, then seek restoration and sanctification through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Also, it may not be necessary to go through each question each time you meet; rather each man can skim the questions quietly and just respond to the relevant ones. Enjoy the journey!

1. Are you living the Gospel this week? Are you seeking to wholeheartedly love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? When you sin, do you repent and trust Christ's finished work on the cross for your salvation? Have you resolved to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of your life? (Gal. 2:20-21)
2. Have you allowed yourself to be exposed to any sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain sexually inappropriate thoughts this past week? (Matt. 5:28)
3. Have you been a good steward of the money and resources God has entrusted to you? (at least tithing; Malachi 3:6-12)
4. Have you been honourable and above reproach in all relationships? (family, business, church, friends etc.) (1 Tim. 3:2)
5. Have you been a good steward of the Holy Spirit's temple? (e.g. exercise and eating habits etc.; 1 Cor. 6:19)
6. Have you take a Sabbath day rest this week? (Ex. 20:8-11)
7. Have I been harbouring any wrong thoughts (e.g. anger, resentment, internal swearing, etc.)? (Phil. 4:8)
8. Is there any sin or encumbrance in your life that you should to tell us about? (James 5:16)
9. How can we pray for you as you seek to lay down your life for the Glory of God this week? (Eph. 6:19-20)

Discipleship Questions:

10. Have you prioritized daily meditating on God's Word this week (Josh. 1:8)? How has it been conforming you into Christlikeness?
11. Who have you been discipling (Matt. 28:20)? How is it going? (wife and kids first; then others)
12. How have you been bold about Jesus this past week in your circles? (Acts 4:13,29)

Call 911 before you sin. Say, "Please pray for me and promise to ask me tomorrow what I did tonight." Confession is good but prevention is better. Call anyone in our group.

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