



BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

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Wednesday Noon Bible Study

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SERMON SERIES

“Serving in HD (High Definition)”

PART 6 - Accountability — Servant Leaders Who Are Willing to Answer to Others

Key Thought

A servant leader understands that authority never eliminates accountability. Greater responsibility actually requires greater accountability.

The question is not simply: **“Who answers to me?”**

A servant leader must also ask: **“Who am I willing to answer to?”**

Proverbs 12:15:

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”

Who in your life has permission to tell you that you are wrong?

Not:

Who can give you advice?

But:

Who can challenge you?

Who can question you?

Who can correct you?

Who can tell you something you don't want to hear?

This is particularly important for leaders because leadership can gradually create environments where fewer people feel comfortable telling the leader the truth.

What Is Accountability?

Biblical accountability is the willingness to take responsibility for our actions, decisions, attitudes, and stewardship before God and trusted people.

Accountability means I am willing to:

Explain my decisions.

Receive questions.

Accept correction.
Admit mistakes.
Take responsibility for consequences.
Keep appropriate commitments.
Submit to biblical standards.
Allow trusted people to speak truth into my life.

Accountability Is Not Control

Accountability does not mean allowing another person to:

Manipulate you.
Make every decision for you.
Control your personal life.
Violate appropriate boundaries.
Exercise authority God has not given them.

Healthy accountability is not about control.

It is about responsibility, transparency, wisdom, and growth.

Leadership Principle

If nobody can question you, correct you, or challenge you, you are not accountable — you are isolated.

OUR FIRST ACCOUNTABILITY IS TO GOD

Romans 14:10–12

Paul writes:

“So, then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

Before we talk about accountability to people, we must begin with accountability to God.

Every servant leader must remember: **Leadership is stewardship.**

Luke 16:10

Jesus teaches:

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much...”

The servant leader understands: **I am not the owner. I am the steward.**

Leadership Principle

Human accountability becomes meaningful when it grows out of divine accountability.

ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIRES HUMILITY

Proverbs 27:5–6

“Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend...”

Nobody enjoys correction.

But Scripture teaches that sometimes the person who loves you most is the person willing to tell you something uncomfortable.

A. Pride Resists Correction

Pride says:

“Who are you to question me?”

“Do you know how long I've been doing this?”

“I'm the leader.”

“Nobody understands what I have to deal with.”

B. Humility Receives Correction

Humility says:

“Maybe there is something here I need to hear.”

This connects accountability to the earlier lesson on Listening.

You cannot practice accountability without listening.

And it connects to Humility.

You cannot receive correction if you believe correction is beneath you.

C. Correction Is Not Always Rejection

Sometimes leaders interpret correction as disrespect.

But someone can: **Respect your leadership and disagree with your decision.**

Someone can: **Love you and correct you.**

Someone can: **Support your ministry and still identify something that needs to change.**

Leadership Principle

Maturity is demonstrated not merely by how well you give correction, but by how well you receive it.

MOSES — EVEN GOOD LEADERS NEED SOMEONE TO SPEAK INTO THEIR LIVES

Exodus 18:13–24

Moses was leading Israel.

He was:

Called by God.
Used by God.
Respected by the people.
Experienced.
Spiritually significant.

But Moses was doing something poorly. He was trying to handle everything himself.

Jethro watched Moses and said: "The thing that thou doest is not good."

Think about that statement.

Moses had spoken with God.
Moses had confronted Pharaoh.
Moses had led Israel through the Red Sea.

Yet Moses still needed someone who could say: "What you're doing is not good."

Jethro Observed the Problem

- Moses was exhausting himself and the people.
- Sometimes leaders cannot see what others can see because they are too close to the situation.

Jethro Confronted the Problem

- He did not merely criticize Moses behind his back.
- He spoke directly to him.

Jethro Offered Wisdom

- He recommended that Moses delegate responsibility.

Accountability should not merely say: "You're wrong."

Moses Listened

Exodus 18:24 says: "So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law..."

Accountability should not always have to chase you.

Mature servant leaders invite it.

And ultimately, every servant leader must remember:

Before I am accountable to the people who follow me, I am accountable to the **God who called me.**