

## Sharpening Light

### The Folly of Hidden Lives and Hidden Love

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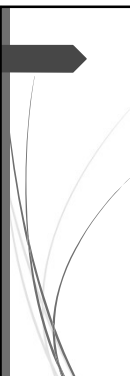
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## Love That Sharpens

### Accountability in Community

- Prov. 27:5-6
- Prov. 27:17
- 1 Jn. 1:5-10

### What Accountability Isn't

- Asking someone how they are doing
- Committing to pray for someone
- Offering counsel/advice to someone

To hold one another accountable: **to inspect in one another what we should expect from one another as disciples of Jesus.**

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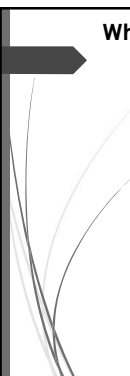
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## What Are the Elements of Healthy Accountability?

- Good accountability is founded on accountability before God. (Gen. 39:9-10; Rom. 14:12)
- Good accountability is pro-active, not simply an opportunity for delayed confession of sin.
- Good accountability involves someone who is mature.
- Good accountability within Christian community involves a path to church discipline.
- Good accountability puts the onus of confession on the person with the problem.
- Good accountability celebrates grace, victories and meeting goals, not just what sin someone avoided.
- Good accountability is more than reporting. There needs to be an expectation of gracious rebuke when needed, right alongside robust encouragement and affirmation.

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**Not Accountability!**

**Why We Avoid Accountability**

- Shame
- Pride/Insecurity
- Autonomy

**How We Avoid Accountability**

- The Loner
- "No One Understands"
- "Shards of Glass"
- "There Will Be Blood" (Prov. 9:8)
- "Where is the Wise One?" (Prov. 28:26)
- "Accountability is Judgment!"

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**Asking Ourselves Honest Questions**

- In sober self-assessment, if I were doing something sinful in my private life, how likely is it, given my current relationships and openness within them, that someone would know about it and have an opportunity to confront me?
- If I asked the people in my home or the people I know best, would they say I am approachable for accountability and/or rebuke or that I fall into one of the accountability-avoider categories?
- If I tend to avoid accountability, why do I tend to do so and what is my avoidance strategy?
- By whom could I consider being truly known with an expectation of both affirmation and rebuke when appropriate?

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