

Loft Underground

Crave - Week Five

Accountability

The loft this week is talking about accountability, a key to replacing what we crave with what God craves. Accountability is continuously reinforced throughout the Bible, so we will take a look at a few passages emphasizing our need to be there for each other.

God holds us accountable.

- Read Genesis 4: 8-16. How does God demonstrate accountability?

- Read Exodus 32: 1-5, and Exodus 32: 19-20.
What is Israel's sin and how does God hold Israel accountable?

- Find Amos and read chapter two. How is the prophet Amos holding Israel accountable?
What makes Amos (and God) mad?

- Matthew 23:23 – How is Jesus working to hold us accountability.

In your own words, what does it mean to be as “shrewd as a snake and as innocent as a dove”?

Accountability in the Church

- John Wesley (founder of Methodism) said we need “shoulder to shoulder, face to face, and heart to heart time with God”. Let's break this down.
 - o Shoulder to shoulder time is worship – how does (or should) worship help develop a personal sense of accountability?

 - o Face to face is life in a small group. Are you in a small group? If not, why not?
If yes, what is the group doing to develop a sense of personal accountability to one another?

 - o Heart to heart are those two to three people who can say anything to you?
Who are these people and how do they help you?
If you don't have these relationships what are you doing to build them?

A Personal Accountability Survey

How many days in the last week have you prayed?

How much of the Bible have you read in the last week?

Have you met in the last month with a small group?

In the last month, how many worship services have you attended?

What do you do to serve your church?

In the last six months, what mission oriented activity have you participated?

Look at your answers – what is God saying to you right now?

Accountability vs. Being Judgmental

Read the following teaching of Jesus from Matthew 7: 1-5.

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Jesus teaches that being judgmental is applying to others a standard you are unwilling to apply to yourself.

How can you practice accountability without being judgmental?