

What is Accountability?

By Laurie Boggs

HYPERLINK <http://www.laurieboggs.com>

Have you ever asked yourself why some people in your life are not accountable? What does accountable mean? According to the Webster dictionary it's answerable, responsible, liable to be called to account. After much soul searching I realized that I have endured a life and created a pattern of people not being accountable in my life. I always felt if I am accountable to my word and to others then they would be accountable to me. This is not necessarily the case. However, it is important that we be accountable to others but the first lesson is to become accountable to yourself.

My pattern started in childhood like most of our patterns start. Both of my parents were unaccountable in their responsibility of raising children. They both suffered with the disease of alcoholism. Alcohol became the priority, not the children they birthed. I learned to survive in a world where my parents did not deliver on their promises. I also was intimidated by my father's behavior when he was drunk, especially when he drove drunk. If I was afraid, I was taught to not say anything, because if I did, I could cause an up roar in our already chaotic family. I did not want to be a burden on my parents. My dad would call me "another mouth to feed." I also learned that when people weren't accountable it would force me to try to control everything around me so I could survive. It was the only stability I had to hold on to. What I did not know is I was creating a world of insanity, a world of being out of control, not in control.

As I matured I had an open wound, it became a place where others of this caliber saw the empty hole of pain and continued to dig the hole deeper by not being accountable. They showed it by their actions, and continuously hurt me and others for their own deceptive gain.

It's as if I was a mirror reflecting to the world, "You don't have to be accountable to me!" Then the worst day of my life happened. We were hit head on by a drunk driver, again no accountability! My only child Preston was killed he had just turned eight. Preston was a miracle after seven years of infertility three miscarriages and four surgeries. The really sad part is the drunk driver had his own children in the vehicle. A little boy the same age as my son and his six-year-old daughter were killed. Also the drunk driver was killed along with his girlfriend. Another accountability piece is he was a repeat offender with no insurance. Five people died that ugly day while my husband and I barely survived.

We were surprised to learn that even after we endured such a fatal tragedy, the people in our lives who we thought would be accountable, were not. People that were suppose to help us. Like victim advocates, sheriffs and policemen. A few of them let us down and

we were caught in the cycle of power games for their own gain. Not all of the people that had these roles let us down but the few that did caused us extreme additional pain. On top of the grief and injuries we were enduring. Why does this cycle continue in my life?

Seven years later – I see this continuous pattern haunt me. Again, people not following through for me on a project I am doing. They seem really excited and so willing to help but when it comes down to getting the result nothing is there. I know people have very good intentions and life gets in the way. But for some reason I am put on the backburner. I want to be put on the front burner with a completed project and sincere thanks to all of those that have helped me. I know my accountability is something I need to heal. I have created this pattern now I need to recreate it. I have looked deep within my soul and God has provided me the answers. How come I expect people to be accountable to me when I am not accountable to myself? There are many layers of emotionally components to heal with accountability.

I have learned judging other's is not being accountable because when we judge other we are judging ourselves. When I am in a situation when people don't follow through I try to control the situation by trying to control others. I cannot control anyone but myself. I have also learned that trusting my own intuition and having the faith in God are the keys to my healing and survival. This empowers me to express my needs and desires.

Another component to healing accountability issues is to notice what we are projecting to the world. As I continue to heal. I see that I have projected low self worth. I have continued to carry the energy of a burden. I understand why people would put my project on the back burner when I am projecting this energy...of negative baggage. Why would they want to carry this baggage? This is another place that I am learning that I need to be accountable to myself. I am worthy of others help. Now that I have changed my energy by being accountable to my thought patterns I can shine light on this dark place. I am sure my project will move to the front burner.

I am so very thankful for all of the help from the people in my life. Those that have been accountable and for those that have not. For those that have, thank you for seeing through my darkness I wore of low self-worth. For those that have not, thank you for taking your time, keeping my project on the back burner, so I can see how to heal myself. What a wonderful gift God has given me. To see how much I am cherished in his perfect world.

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