

## ACCOUNTABILITY & LEVERAGE

Webster's defines the word *accountable* in the following manner:

1 : subject to giving an account : 2 : capable of being accounted for :  
RESPONSIBLE

Accountability generally requires some way to administer consequences if the desired behavior is not accomplished. These consequences could be call "leverage" or *power* as Webster's defines it. Ironically, very few relationships have any legitimate *leverage*. A parent has *leverage* over their child, and an employer has leverage over an employee, but most other human relationships have no *leverage* that can be exerted without serious consequences to persons other than the one who has failed to do what was promised.

*If, however, a person truly believes the teachings of the Bible, their behavior will be motivated by a desire to please God.*

2 Cor 5:9-10 NIV

**So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.**

**Accountability (the state of being accountable)** Is not a Bible word but an abstract term for that return for his talents and opportunities that every soul must make to God day by day, and especially at the judgment, as we are taught in Matt 12:36; Rom 4:10; Heb 13:17, and 1 Peter 4:5. It is a well-established doctrine of Holy Scripture, attested to by human consciousness, that we are free moral agents, entirely dependent upon our Creator for our existence and maintenance, and rightly answerable to Him for our conduct; and that God consequently has a right to our perfect obedience and service. It is accordingly easy for us to feel that He is justified in calling us to a strict reckoning for all He has entrusted us with. Disabled by our fall into sin, gracious strength has been provided for us in the atonement, so that we are without excuse if we fail to do God's will.  
(From The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright (c) 1988.)