

ACCOUNTABILITY

Excerpts taken from *Dropping Your Guard* by Charles R Swindoll

The existence of the word sounds legal and rightly so. Rather than scope out some scholarly definition, let's look at the practical one. Here are a few we need to consider. One should be willing to explain one's actions by being open, unguarded and non-defensive about one's motives and answering for one's life and supplying the reason why.

When we join a club most of us realize that it requires at least four character traits that are not normally found in folks who are satisfied to live mediocre lives and just do things half way. Here are some tributes these folks personify:

- Teachability... anxious to learn, humble, quick to hear, willing to change, inviting advice.
- Honesty... committed to the truth, hating anything phony, counterfeit, or false and models sincerity
- Vulnerability... capable of being wounded, open, and unguarded, non-defensive.
- Availability... touchable, accessible, can be interrupted, willing to meet on a regular basis.

Accountability on a personal level is not that unusual. When one chooses to become a team player they chose to become accountable to the team.

But does it fit into amateur radio? If so why? We in amateur radio need to start working more towards depending upon each other than trying to go it alone. We need not neglect doing well and sharing; for these make it pleasing to us all. Obey our leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over us, as those who will give an account of our doing. Let us do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for us. "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceit is the kiss from our enemy".

The most aspiring clubs demonstrate this type of accountability among the leadership and members. There is no fun or satisfaction in going to a meeting where there are verbal disagreements, small attendance due to lack of leadership. Effective human relations must be applied. Now this is not to say that disagreements are not needed or warranted. This makes us all grow and learn. But make sure that this is done with finesse and a respect of the ones involved. Every club has a choice to be one of two things. You can choose to be a bag of marbles, single units that don't affect each other except through a collision. Or, you can choose to be a bag of grapes. Their juices begin to mingle and there is no way to extricate yourselves if you tried. There is no room in amateur radio for a single minded leadership or likewise a single minded member. Teamwork is the life blood of any club and this only can be accomplished by accountability.

Amateur radio needs a shot in the arm and this is but one way to start. This article is not to criticize but to help those understand the inner thoughts of the leadership and its members and visa- versa. With the inventions of the computer and cell phones it is difficult at best to make our hobby intriguing. No need in driving prospective amateurs away by not having any direction or accountability through our actions. Live the part and let the part be lived in you.