

Personal Responsibility

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I. Introduction.

- A. We need to know how we can train in a balanced way.
- B. There are four ways one can evaluate his or her own growth or ministry.

II. Deep interpersonal relationships.

- A. One motivates through empathy, communication and motivation.
- B. God changed us through two different approaches.
 - 1. Sinai communicated the holiness and power of God.
 - 2. The manger communicated to us in a way that identified with us—this is empathy.
- C. Empathy is a prerequisite to communication.
- D. We should all work towards deep interpersonal relationships and evaluate ourselves soberly. (Romans 12:3)
- E. Most of the great men in the Bible had a few intimate confidants.
- F. We must receive ourselves unconditionally so that we can accept others unconditionally also. (Romans 15:7)

III. A proper sense of communion.

- A. We need healthy relationships where we are making a contribution and being helped.
- B. In losing our sense of community, we are losing our sense of confidence. (Acts 16:10)

IV. Great truths.

- A. The vast majority of our problems are related to our inadequate view of God.
- B. Only by pride comes contention.
- C. We must know what we believe and why we believe it. (II Timothy 3:10)

Application questions:

1. Who is a model for you of empathy? How does this person communicate this to you?

2. Who are your intimate confidants? How can you develop these relationships more in your life?

3. What great truths have you neglected the most? How can you strengthen your own convictions in these areas?
