

Come Together 3

Authority,

Responsibility and

Accountability

Material used from Duane Harder's Book:

Building Generational Legacy



- ▶ **Authority, responsibility and accountability are directly related to each other.**
 - ▶ **All delegated authority finds its source in God.**
 - Romans 13:1–2 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. 2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.
 - What is Paul referring to in the phrase: “governing authorities”?
 - God, as the Creator and owner of all things, is the divine appointee of both authority and boundaries.
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- ▶ **Authority is the right to act within divinely appointed boundaries.**
 - **Genesis 2:15–17** The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ESV
 - **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "**Did God actually say?**" ESV
 - **Genesis 3:4–5** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ESV
 - **God always says what He means and means what He says!**
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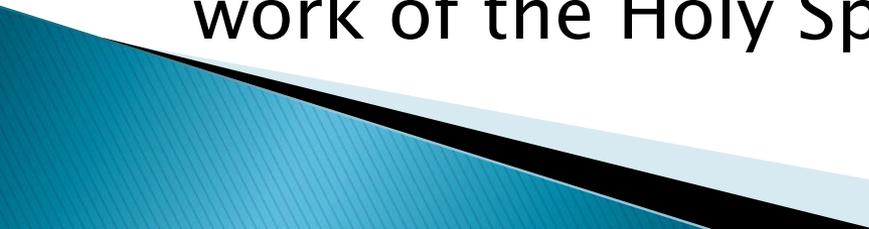
- ▶ The battle today is between a theocentric and homocentric worldview.
 - ▶ God, who is the ultimate authority, never allows us to adjust our behavior relative to that of the one who holds a position of authority over us.
 - ▶ God requires that we walk in a way that's pleasing to Him.
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- ▶ **Responsibility focuses on my individual standing before God.**
 - All responsibility ultimately leads us back to God.
 - ▶ As the creator of all, both the systems of rule, and the substance to be governed, man is ultimately responsible to God for fulfilling the obligations of life.
 - ▶ Think of the various places where we enter into something that God has given specific responsibilities to:
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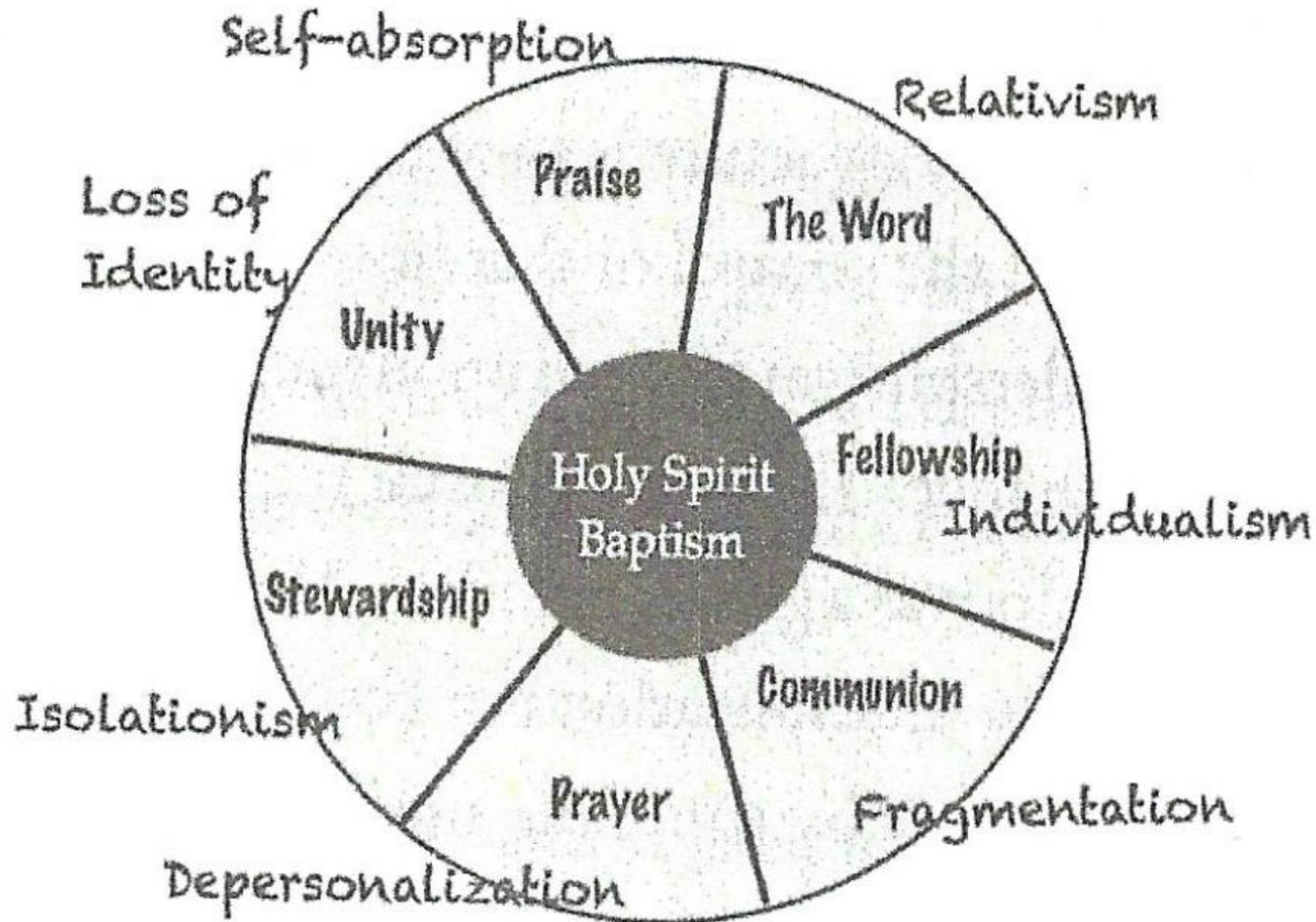
▶ **Accountability is my relationship and community with God.**

- Responsibility and accountability cannot be separated.
- God came to Cain and asked, “Where is Abel your brother”. (Gen. 4:9)
- This accountability is expressed within the context of family – “your brother”.
- Cain responds to God with a question: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”
- Cain’s question is an attempt to clear himself of accountability within community!
- Cain’s actions and response or justification was an ultimate expression of self–enthronement – I am responsible for my own destiny and accountable to no one!

- God's response was to curse his strength and isolate him from community!
 - **Genesis 4:12** No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth." NLT
 - **Genesis 4:26** At that time people first began to worship the Lord by name. NLT
 - To call upon or worship the Lord is the recognition of accountability to ultimate authority!
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- ▶ **What does all this have to do with Coming Together?**
 - ▶ Embedded within this newly birthed community were attributes that constantly challenge the sin nature inherited in the fall. We have a new spirit when we are born again in Christ Jesus. We still have a sin nature that still wants to rebel!
 - ▶ We need to be reminded that the book of Acts is not prescriptive but rather descriptive of the work of the Holy Spirit in forming the church.
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- Seven Leavening, Legacy Producing Dynamics



- 1. The Apostles' Teaching – principle not pragmatism:**
 - 2. Fellowship – partnership with purpose:**
 - 3. Communion – participation that produces cohesive life**
 - 4. Prayer – petition that changes perspective:**
 - 5. Stewardship – provision that challenges greed:**
 - 6. Unity – priority that defines my person:**
 - 7. Praising God – praise that breaks our self-absorption:**
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