

Accountability Quotes

Keeping promises, measuring what matters, and stewardship

"Some favorite expressions of small children: "It's not my fault. . . They made me do it. . . I forgot."
Some favorite expressions of adults: "It's not my job. . . No one told me. . . It couldn't be helped." True
freedom begins and ends with personal accountability."

Dan Zadra

"I am not bound to win
but I am bound to be true;
I am not bound to succeed
but am bound to live up
to what light I have."

Abraham Lincoln

"Thinking well is wise; planning well, wiser; doing well wisest and best of all."

Persian Proverb

"Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years; people grow old only by deserting their ideals."

Samuel Ullman

"To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end in life."

Spinoza

"Culture is not just an ornament; it is the expression of a nation's character, and at the same time it is a
powerful instrument to mould character. The end of culture is right living."

W. Somerset Maugham

"There is only one real failure in life that is possible, and that is, not to be true to the best one knows."

Farrar

"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity."

Donald A. Adams

"A duty dodged is like a debt unpaid; it is only deferred, and we must come back and settle the account at last."

Joseph Fort Newton

"It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our responsibilities."

Sir Josiah Stamp

"When we are really honest with ourselves we must admit our lives are all that really belong to us. So it is how we use our lives that determines the kind of men we are."

Cesar Chavez

"God does not want us to do extraordinary things; He wants us to do ordinary things extraordinarily well."

Bishop Gore

"The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to be."

Socrates

"The only true happiness comes from squandering ourselves for a purpose."

John Mason Brown

"It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable."

Moliere

"Don't get up from the feast of life without paying for your share of it."

W. R. Inge

"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes real happiness. It is not obtained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose."

Helen Keller

"Every person's work, whether it be literature or music or pictures or architecture or anything else, is always a portrait of that person."

Samuel Butler

"Truly great companies are built on ideals, not just deals."

Al Watts

"Let there be few words and many deeds, and may they be done well."

St. Vincent Pallotti

"It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them."

Alfred Adler

"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

"To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end in life."

Robert Louis Stevenson

"Hell is the place for people who did not live their lives according to the best of what was in them."

Harriet Rubin

"Never promise more than you can perform."

Publius Syrus

"Prefer a loss to a dishonest gain; the one brings pain at the moment, the other for all time."

Chilon

"Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go."

William Feather

"Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should."

Psalm 90: 12 TLB

"The smallest actual good is better than the most magnificent promise of impossibilities."

Macaulay

"Hell begins on the day when God grants us a clear vision of all that we might have achieved, of all the gifts which we have wasted, of all that we might have done which we did not do."

Gian-Carlo Menotti

"A man's treatment of money is the most decisive test of his character - how he makes it and how he spends it."

James Moffatt

"The realization of the self is only possible if one is productive, if one can give birth to one's own potentialities."

Goethe

"Man is asked to make of himself what he is supposed to become to fulfill his destiny."

Paul Tillich

"Every act of every man is a moral act, to be tested by moral, and not by economic criteria."

Robert Maynard Hutchins

"Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years; people grow old only by deserting their ideals."

Samuel Ullma

"There is not a right way to do a wrong thing."

Bits and Pieces

"We must be careful that the business we build does not become mere busyness."

Al Watts

"Aim above morality. Be not simply good; be good for something."

Henry David Thoreau

"The right to do something does not mean that doing it is right."

William Safire

"Prefer a loss to a dishonest gain; the one brings pain in the moment, the other for all time."

Chilon

"Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done."

Stowe

"Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals."

Watterson Lowe

"Keep true, never be ashamed of doing right; decide on what you think is right, and stick to it."

George Eliot

"No man can tell if he is rich or poor by turning to his ledger. It is the heart that makes a man rich. He is rich according to what he is, not according to what he has."

Henry Ward Beecher

"Healing of the world's woes will not come through this or that social or political theory; not through violent changes in government, but in the still small voice that speaks to the conscience and the heart."

Arthur J. Moore, D. D.

"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."

William James

"Be faithful to that which exists nowhere but in yourself."

Andre Gide

"If you insist on measuring yourself, put the tape around your heart rather than your head. Try measuring your wealth by who you are, rather than by what you have."

Carol Trabelle

"Remember that you are unique. If that has not been fulfilled, then something wonderful has been lost."

Martha Graham

"Happiness is the state of consciousness which proceeds from achievement of one's values."

Ayn Rand

"The secret of success is constancy to purpose."

Benjamin Disraeli

"The real tragedy of life is not that each of us doesn't have enough strengths, it's that we fail to use the ones we have."

Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton
(In Now Discover Your Strengths)

"Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow that talent to the dark places where it leads."

Erica Jong

"You don't choose the day you enter the world and you don't choose the day you leave. It's what you do in between that makes all the difference."

Anita Septimus

"The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for those realities."

Gifford Pinchot

"There is only one real failure in life that is possible, and that is not to be true to the best one knows."

Farrar

"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Success is more permanent when you achieve it without destroying your principles."

Walter Cronkite

"If you have integrity, nothing else matters; if you don't have integrity, nothing else matters."

Alan Simpson

"What distinguishes the minority of men from the many is their ability to act according to their beliefs."

John Stuart Mill

"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes real happiness. It is not obtained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose."

Helen Keller

"No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible."

George Burns

"Integrity is so perishable in the summer of success."

Vanessa Redgrave

"The only thing it takes for evil to succeed is for someone to say "It's a business."

Alan Shore (T.V.'s "Boston Legal" character)

"When you get right down to the root meaning of the word "succeed", you find that it simply means to follow through."

F. W. Nichol

"Everyone sooner or later sits down to a banquet of consequences."

Robert Louis Stevenson

"The art of living well and the art of dying well are one."

Epicurus

"Be life long or short, its completeness depends on what it was lived for."

David Starr Jordan

"The key to growth is to learn to make promises and to keep them."

Stephen R. Covey

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

Robert Louis Stevenson

"The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one hour."

Japanese proverb

"The law of the harvest is to reap more than you sow. Sow an act, and you reap a habit; sow a habit, and you reap character, sow a character and you reap a destiny."

G. D. Boardman

"Some favorite expressions of small children: "It's not my fault... They made me do it... I forgot." Some favorite expressions of adults: "It's not my job... No one told me... It couldn't be helped." True freedom begins and ends with personal accountability."

Dan Zadra

“The only kind of true growth is sustainable growth, and everything else is a Ponzi scheme.”

Bryan Walsh, Time Magazine

Once we see that living up to our standards appears to be leading us toward self-destruction, the time has come to question our standards.

Nathaniel Brandon

“Losers make promises they often break. Winners make commitments they always keep.”

Dennis Waitley

“Discipline is the bridge between goals and achievement.”

Jim Rohn

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”

Goethe

“Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.”

Edward Abbey

“The heart of any moral system is the connection between action and consequences.”

David Brooks, NYT Columnist

“I am not bound to win
but am bound to be true.
I am not bound to succeed
But am bound to live up
To what light I have.”

Abraham Lincoln

“There is a difference between what you have a right to do, and what is the right thing to do.”

Potter Stewart, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

“The heart of any moral system is the connection between action and consequences.”

David Brooks, NYT Columnist

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”

Goethe

"Blame nobody. Expect nothing. Do something."

Coach Bill Parcells

"The greatest mistake is to do nothing because you can only do a little."

Sydney Smith, English clergyman and writer

“Don’t find fault; find a remedy.”

Henry Ford

"There is no growth except in the fulfillment of obligations."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Edmund Burke

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.”

Albert Einstein

“Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“Industry only has the right to succeed where it performs a real economic service and is a true social asset.”

Robert Wood Johnson

"Liberty means responsibility. That is why most dread it."

George Bernard Shaw

“Faced with what is right, to leave it undone shows a lack of courage.”

Confucius

“It is not goodness to be better than the worst.”

Seneca

“There is always room for those who can be relied on to deliver the goods when they say they will.”

Napoleon Hill

“The person who is slowest in making a promise is most faithful in its performance.”

Jean Jacques Rousseau

"A promise must never be broken."

Alexander Hamilton



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