

DTN Accountability and Disciplinary Measures

*The hour is urgent.
The Day of the Lord is at hand.
Jesus the Messiah is returning soon.
We will all give an account of our lives to God.*

As lawlessness, immorality, and deception continue to increase throughout the earth, we, the trainers of DTN, knowing that teachers and leaders are called by God to a higher standard (1 Ti 3; Tit 1; Jm 3:1), and that we ourselves are subject to the same temptations as the rest of fallen humanity (1 Co 10:13), voluntarily submit ourselves, as slaves of Christ Jesus, to the following protective and disciplinary measures, in an effort to proactively keep our lives and conduct from becoming a stumbling block to the gospel (2 Co 6:3):

Preventative Measures

1. We commit to fostering of *a culture cross-centered transparency and vulnerability*, in context to regular *accountability* and *confession*, taking care to engage in the latter in a way that results in cleansing, strength, and forgiveness for the confessor, yet without causing the person hearing the confession to become defiled or drawn into the same temptation himself. To this end, we agree to the following measures of accountability:
 - a. *Weekly "buddy system."* If someone in the network has effective accountability measures in place locally, outside of the context of DTN, then that person will need to have one accountability partner within the DTN Network. Otherwise, each DTN trainer will have two other accountability partners within the network. If certain members of the network are *co-located*, they will be encouraged to serve as accountability partners to one another. Within this "buddy system," we commit to:
 - "Check in" with one another throughout the week (through text, phone call, voxer, etc), for prayer, encouragement, and confession as needed
 - The regular communication of prayers, Bible verses, and other words of exhortation (e.g. a short phrase like "one day closer" through text) is highly encouraged
 - b. *Monthly Accountability*
 - Once a month, those who form an accountability group will meet face to face through Skype (or in person if co-located) for a time of

more focused accountability and prayer, to go deeper than what might be possible through small weekly interactions

- It is encouraged that each brother set apart one day a month to fast for those in his group

2. We commit to exercise *proactive discretion* with regard to technologies that by their nature have great potential to become snares and easy onramps to sin. For example:

a. *Apps*: In many instances (especially with free apps), defiling advertisements (“too much skin”) often accompany the app. In proactive response to this, we commit ourselves to ask questions similar to the following when considering an app:

- Is the app accompanied by advertisements? If so, is there a way to block them, or to acquire a version of the app that doesn’t have them? Does the value of having the app outweigh potential risks? What effect will this app have on my life? Will it rob time from things that help keep my walk with the Lord strong? Etc.

b. *Cell phones*: Smart phones give us instant and easy access to sinful things of all kinds. If the temptation to use a cell phone to access sexually immoral content is regular and strong, we commit ourselves to “downgrading” or getting rid of our phone – to whatever degree necessary, the specific measures being decided in context to personal accountability through the “buddy system” (see above)

c. *Computers*: The concerns with apps and cell phones apply here as well. As a proactive measure to protect ourselves from unwanted defilements and the temptation to use the internet to access pornographic materials, we commit to:

- use some sort of internet filtering system (the particular system being decided upon by each group in the “buddy system” [see above]). Here are two potential options: www.covenanteyes.com; www.xxxchurch.com/get-help.
- receive basic training as needed from those in the network who have skills in IT, to install systems on our computers that reduce the risk of exposure to perverse images and content (eg, how to block ads on Facebook)

3. We commit to exercise *proactive discretion* in the way we relate to women other than our spouses, to guard ourselves from inappropriate emotional relationships with them that could pave the way for other sin. For example:

- a. Being careful not to have in-depth conversations with a woman if our spouse is not present
- b. Being intentional about including our spouses in interactions with other women

- c. Being careful to avoid situations in which we would be alone with a woman other than our spouse
4. When traveling, we commit to do our best *not to travel on long trips alone*, but with a family member or friend. If for some reason a person must travel by himself, then that person will have very frequent contact with his accountability partner(s) in the buddy system.

Disciplinary Measures

1. If it is discovered that a trainer within the network has fallen into *an immoral or adulterous relationship*, the following measures will be implemented, with frequent reference to the disciplinary measures outlined in Mt 18:
 - a. Tim is to be immediately informed; if Tim himself (God forbid! God protect me and have mercy on me!) were the one in need of discipline, 2-3 other leaders in the network are to be immediately informed
 - b. 2-3 other respected brothers within the network, who meet the “overseer” qualifications of 1 Ti 3, will be then appointed as *an ad hoc “body of elders,”* and together they will meet with the person to discuss the sin and the appropriate disciplinary actions; the person’s accountability partners will be drawn into the discussion as necessary. The “elders” will be actively looking for signs of sincere remorse, repentance, and willingness to submit to discipline.
 - c. If the brother is sincerely repentant and willing to submit to discipline, he he will be asked to step out of ministry, and to go to a place where he and his family can be restored over a period of time and receive whatever help they need. The other DTN trainers will be encouraged to fast for the brother, and to contribute to an offering to help pay for any counseling costs, as a sign of our love and commitment to the brother and his family. During this time of restoration, the brother’s resources will be removed from the DTN website, and he will not be permitted to teach at conferences.
 - d. In cases of adultery, the default “*restoration period,*” with respect to participation with DTN on a ministerial level, will be five years, though this may be subject to adjustment depending on the progress being made in various aspects of the restoration process. For example:
 - Has the family sufficiently healed? Has the spouse regained confidence?
 - Has this person received healing and experienced restoration to the extent that he can handle the pressures of ministry in a way that honors the gospel?

- Has enough time passed, and has the person’s response been such, that the story of his former sin and restoration now has the effect edifying the body of Christ, rather than being a source of stumbling to it?
- e. If it is deemed that the brother is *not sincerely repentant* and willing to submit to discipline, the measures prescribed by Mt 18 in that scenario will be applied to him, and his resources will be removed from the DTN Website.
2. In cases where a DTN brother has looked at *pornography*, the following measures will be implemented, again with frequent reference to the disciplinary measures outlined in Mt 18:
- a. Tim is to be immediately informed; if Tim himself (God forbid! God protect me and have mercy on me!) were the one in need of discipline, 2-3 other leaders in the network are to be immediately informed
 - b. 2-3 other respected brothers within the network, who meet the “overseer” qualifications of 1 Ti 3, will be then appointed as *an ad hoc “body of elders,”* and together they will meet with the person to discuss the sin and the appropriate disciplinary actions; the person’s accountability partners will be drawn into the discussion as necessary. In cases of pornography use, the following factors, among others, will be taken into consideration in deciding the appropriate course of action:
 - Is this *an isolated incident/aberration*, or a *pattern/ongoing habit* in the person’s life?
 - If it is a pattern, how intense has the pattern? Eg, how frequent? Was the person actively seeking it out? What degree of secrecy? etc.
 - Is the person willing to be vulnerable and accountable to his leadership? Is he willing to come forward and bring it into the light? Is there an eagerness to repent and receive correction? Is there an attitude of true repentance?
 - What degree of responsibility in leadership does the brother have?
 - Have there been other sinful and inappropriate actions in relation to women outside the use of the pornography itself?
 - Etc.
 - c. In cases where it is judged that the occurrence was an *isolated incident of pornography*: If the brother is sincerely repentant and willing to submit to discipline, then the following steps will be taken:
 - An attempt will be made to assess the “intensity” of the incident involving pornography. In order to confirm the fact that this is, in

fact, not a “pattern of pornography,” and to provide a proper window of time for any healing that might need to take place in the brother’s marriage, the brother will be asked to take an *extended leave* from his leadership responsibilities. The time of the “extended leave” will depend on the nature and “intensity” of the incident as determined through discussion with the elders involved in the brother’s situation.

- The brother’s accountability partner in the “buddy system” will be asked to check in with the brother daily, rather than weekly, during this time of extended leave. They, along with the “elders” who become involved in the situation, will also be asked to take some time to fast for the brother and his family.
 - During this time, the brother’s resources will not be removed from the DTN website. However, the brother will not be allowed to post resources during his time of leave, and will need to wait one year before being allowed to speak or lead at a DTN Conference.
 - If some sort of counseling is needed, the other trainers will be asked to contribute to an offering to help pay for any counseling costs, as a sign of our love and commitment to the brother and his family.
- d. In cases where it is judged that the event was an *isolated event*: If it is deemed that the brother is *not sincerely repentant* and willing to submit to discipline, the measures prescribed by Mt 18 in that scenario will be applied to him.
- e. In cases where it is judged that the person is involved in an *ongoing pattern* of pornography: If the brother is sincerely repentant and willing to submit to discipline, then the following steps will be taken:
- The brother will be asked to step down from his leadership responsibilities for a period of time commensurate to the degree, frequency, and intensity of the pattern as discerned through discussion with the “elders” who are handling his case, and depending on the impact that the pattern of pornography has had on his marriage.
 - The brother’s accountability partner in the “buddy system” will be asked to check in with the brother daily, rather than weekly, during this time. They, along with the “elders” who become involved in the situation, will also be asked to take some time to fast for the brother and his family.

- During this time, the brother's resources will be removed from the DTN website, and the brother will need to wait until after his "restoration" period (see below) to speak or lead at a DTN Conference.
 - If some sort of counseling is needed, the other trainers will be asked to contribute to an offering to help pay for any counseling costs, as a sign of our love and commitment to the brother and his family.
- b. In cases of a *pattern of pornography*, the "restoration period," with respect to participation with DTN on a ministerial level, will depend on the nature and severity of the pattern, and on the progress being made in various aspects of the restoration process. For example:
- Has the family sufficiently healed? Has the spouse regained confidence?
 - Has this person received healing and experienced restoration to the extent that he can handle the pressures of ministry in a way that honors the gospel?
 - Has enough time passed, and has the person's response been such, that the story of his former sin and restoration now has the effect edifying the body of Christ, rather than being a source of stumbling to it?
- f. In cases of a pattern of pornography, if it is deemed that the brother is *not sincerely repentant* and willing to submit to discipline, the measures prescribed by Mt 18 in that scenario will be applied to him, and his resources will be removed from the DTN website.