

Accountability

Challenge: Everyone who saw the 2013 BCS National Championship Game between Notre Dame and Alabama was talking about “The Shove”.

Why did Barrett Jones and A.J. McCarron get into an embarrassing argument in the fourth quarter, even though Alabama was clearly in control and would win the game?

The reason behind it was a genuine trust for one another, and a willingness to confront one another on a less than stellar effort. This is a large part of why Alabama has had such a consistent winning streak. At the root of healthy teams is trust among the leaders. Trust leads to healthy conflict, conflict leads to full discussion, full discussion leads to commitment by the team to a goal and strategy, commitment leads to accountability, and accountability leads to results.

McCarron said the incident was quickly forgotten. “Just two guys trying to be the best. That’s it,” he said. If you want to be a championship team, your team members must learn how to confront one another constructively when someone is not doing what he needs to do to be the best. Conflict can be healthy and helpful, if it is the product of mutual trust.

Questions to consider:

Who in your life has pushed you to pursue excellence?

Have you ever had to call someone out or been called out yourself? What was the end result?

Do you naturally seek out accountability with others or run from it? Why or why not?

What’s going on: Anyone can fall and make decisions and choices which they know are wrong. Even a man like David, who truly desired to follow God was susceptible to temptation. David’s sin with Bathsheba should be a warning for us to guard our hearts, our eyes, and our minds.

Game Time: 2 Samuel 11

1. Where should David have been when kings go out to war? Where was he?
2. What was the major difference between David and Uriah in the story?
3. What were some of the results of David not being where he needed to be and only thinking only of himself?

Key Verse: “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17

Anchor to remember:

- We need others pushing and encouraging us along the journey.