

# The Biblical and Practical Value of Standards, Peer Accountability, and a Seal



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# Overview and Outline

Is it enough for your ministry to comply with ACNC standards? Should you aim higher? Let's see what God's Word says. Boards and CEOs will gain a biblical perspective about standards, peer accountability, and a seal. Also, learn the benefits of doing the work of getting CMA Standards Council accredited.

1

Consider what God expects of us and the organizations we steward



2

Gain a biblical view about standards, peer accountability, and a seal



3

Discover why to aim higher than compliance with ACNC standards



4

Learn the benefits of doing the work of getting CMA Standards Council accredited



How does God define success?  
It is the opposite of the world!



“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

God is not looking for **results** but **righteousness**. He does not expect **outcomes** but **obedience**. He’s not looking for **figures** but rather, **faithfulness**. He provides the former and our job is the latter.

So what is our role before a watching world? Why are we here?



“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.”  
1 Peter 2:12

We demonstrate what is good and right by how we live our true identity as stewards in God’s kingdom. We show that faithfulness leads to fruitfulness. This brings into view God’s two expectations of us.

What God expects:

1. Serve People Humbly
2. Do Everything in Love



“But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.” Luke 22:26

“Do everything in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14

Thanks God that you don't expect outcomes, figures, and results we cannot control, but rather, obedience, faithfulness, and righteousness. Let's soak in this.

Paul's correspondence provides an international example for us on obedient, faithful, and righteous ministry administration with "The Jerusalem Collection" (c. AD 53-58)



1. Provide **consistent directions** for God's people about giving in every nation (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) - Rallying participation in God's work calls for precision in communication, coupled with honesty and care.

2. Appoint **credentialed administrators** to handle ministry funds (1 Corinthians 16:3-4) - Identifying skilled staff and volunteers enhances trust and positions the ministry effort for great growth.

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3. Preserve God's honor with financial **controls and clear processes** (2 Corinthians 8:16-21) - Engaging people widely requires compliance with instructions that relate to oversight and leadership with transparency and attention to risk management.

4. Affix a seal to build **confidence** in the integrity of ministry administration (Romans 15:28) - This practice in antiquity demonstrated reliability. Over time, it would also inspire people to join in the work.





All God expects of us is to do His work in His way so He gets the glory. So, we pursue obedience, faithfulness, and righteousness in our administration today! Working 2x2 is the pattern of Jesus. We help each other stay on track and serve as role models. It's "peer accountability."



- **Peer accountability** is when individuals or ministries hold each other accountable to follow standards of responsible administration and governance of God's work.
- A **peer accountability group (PAG)** agrees to verify compliance with standards for a nation or region on an annual basis. This compliance results in accreditation.
- PAGs are **making ministries stronger** in 10 countries and counting. The formation of PAG is a global trend. All over the world stewards are pursuing higher standards.



# What if we all aimed higher?





## Nine Principles

1. God First
2. Charitable Status
3. Diligent Governance
4. Responsible Leadership
5. Charitable Purpose
6. Financial Oversight
7. Risk Management
8. Transparency and Accountability
9. Honest Communication





When our focus is obedience, faithfulness, and righteousness then all the fruitful benefits that follow are secondary blessings. Here is not an exhaustive list but a sampling of them.



- Recruit better board members in short-run
- Enhanced trust with givers grows long-term giving
- Use of the CMA Standards Council seal
- Your Organization featured on CMASC Give Confidently Directory
- Your Organization listed in GTP Global Directory (coming soon)
- Educational resources: Webinars and Other templates
- Joining a Global Movement of Trust in Christian Ministries
- Other

# Summary: The Biblical and Practical Value of Standards, Peer Accountability, and a Seal

1

What does God expect of us and the organizations we steward?

- Focus on Righteousness not Results
- Serve Humbly / Do Everything in Love



2

How did Paul model for us?

- Consistent Directions
- Credentialed Administrators
- Financial Controls and Standards
- Affix a Seal to Build Confidence



3

Why aim higher than ACNC?  
What if we all aimed higher?

- Focus on Obedience not Outcomes
- Join a national / global movement



4

What are the standards? What comes with accreditation?

- Nine Principles of CMASC
- Fruits follow Faithfulness



# Discussion: The Biblical and Practical Value of Standards, Peer Accountability, and a Seal

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**Learn about GTP and  
the global work of peer  
accountability groups  
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**Start the process of  
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