

TRUST

What is it?

Voluntarily making myself dependent on another

Why is it important?

Relationships are not possible without trust. It is essential to any life in society

Social interaction is impossible in a world where no-one can be trusted.

The more important the relationship, the more vital trust is. That's why we must have faith for a relationship with God.

Trust involves risk – because I make myself vulnerable. This is hard because we like to be in control. It cannot be forced – I must choose to trust. Trust is part of life. I'm exercising trust all the time, even getting on a bus.

A baby is born trusting – but learns to mistrust through painful experiences.

Trust is a crisis (choice) and a process. It needs active commitment to keep working at it.

Trust requires trustworthiness.

Consider: is there any culture of mistrust in your country?

Examples

Sayings, proverbs

How does this affect the nation?

What role did it play in the run-up to conflict and division?

Objection - doesn't the Bible tell us not to trust in man?

It is vitally important to consider these Scriptures in context

Examples:

Isaiah 2:22 “ Stop trusting in man.....” Context: man cannot save us from God's judgement

Jeremiah 17:5 Context – going into exile because hearts are turning away from God

Micah 7:5

Jeremiah 9:2-6 Not's God's ideal! These are not like the 10 commandments, but a description of a society that is godless – the effects of sin.

John 2:24 Jesus didn't trust anyone...?? Yet consider Matthew 16:19. He has trusted us with the keys of the Kingdom!! We have been entrusted with the Gospel!

What breaks trust?

- Moral weakness, bad character
- Unfaithfulness, disloyalty
- Betrayal
- Dishonesty, hypocrisy, falsehood
- Unreliability
- Evasion, cover-up, deceitfulness

Once trust is broken, it's very hard to restore. It is the most fragile aspect of any relationship. Restoring trust is harder than forgiving. It takes time.

How to build trust

Consider the role of the church in helping to build a national culture of trust instead of mistrust.

- 1) We must first heal the wounds of mistrust or we will never be able to trust anyone.
- 2) We must renounce the stronghold of mistrust that has been passed down from the forefathers. I Peter 1:18
- 3) We must strive to show ourselves to be trustworthy and let others see the beauty and benefit of that.

Consider: The role of standing in the gap to help someone who has been hurt to trust again.

Trustworthiness

1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Timothy 3:11; Nehemiah 13:13; Proverbs 13:17; Daniel 6:4; Titus 2:10; Luke 16:10-12

It means:

- telling the truth
- keeping promises
- being consistent and reliable

Truth (Hebrew word 'emeth' – means steadfast, firm, changeless)

Leviticus 19:11 ; Psalm 101:7 ; Proverbs 12:22 ; Zechariah 8:16 ; Malachi 2:6 ; Matthew 5:37 ; Ephesians 4:15; 25; Colossians 3:9-10 ; James 5:12

There is no trust without truth. Can we trust one another to always tell the truth? Ephesians 4 :25 'Therefore,' (see v 24 - we are to be made new in the attitudes of our hearts and put on our new selves, created to be like God – God who said He was the Truth, and will never lie to us) '...each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body.'

Called to trust.

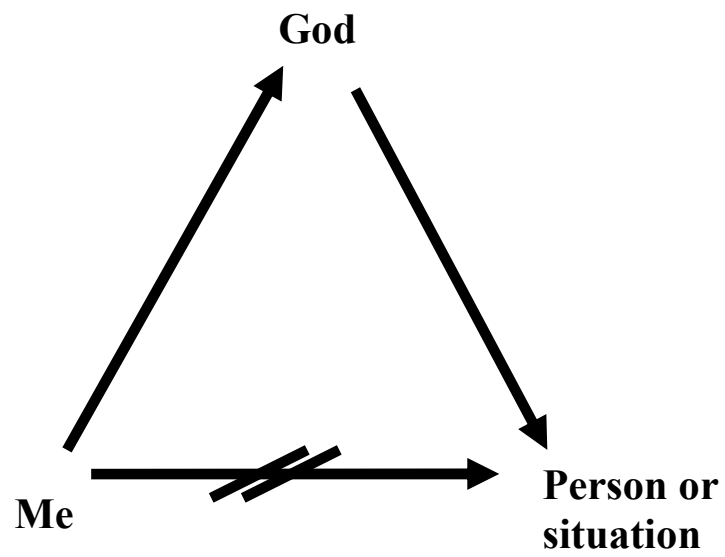
Consider 1 Corinthians 13 :7 "Lovealways trusts... ?" What does this mean?

Always trusting doesn't mean being stupid. If your son or daughter has just trashed your car for the second time, does God ask you to hand over to him/her the keys for your next car? We are told to be wise and discerning, and we have already said that trust must be earned.

So what is God saying to us as His people? How are we meant to relate to one another?

It's one thing to trust a perfect, just, faithful, loving God, but how can I trust imperfect people or systems? We may have had bad experiences that then taught us not to trust.

Ultimately, it's God we have to trust. I need to go to God first and trust Him primarily with whatever person or situation I'm facing.



Otherwise I'm bowing to the created instead of to the Creator, which is actually idolatry!!