

## Developing Trust

Deuteronomy 4:15-16

**Who are you going to trust?** In this series on values, first we talked about developing your standards, choosing who is going to be your standard for life. Then we talked about accepting responsibility for your life. The next question that comes up is, Who are you going to trust?

**There have been a lot of books and a lot of magazines and articles out recently talking about the dramatic decline in trust in our society - that nobody really trusts anybody anymore.** We are a cynical nation, a doubting nation. We tend to be wondering what is really the truth. **We are skeptical of everything and everybody.** A recently article I read was talking about the high price of low trust. Customers do not trust business anymore. Employees do not trust managers any more. Nobody trusts the government any more.

**So, what is behind this decline in trust in our society, where we are skeptical of everything and everybody?** We have heard all these bogus claims and we have heard all these unkept promises. Why don't we trust people?

**The answer is what we talked about in our introduction a few weeks ago.** Truth decay. Our society doesn't value truth any more. **What they value is what works.** It does not matter if it is true or not. But, I submit to you tonight that truth and trust go together. **There is only one letter difference between truth and trust.** You trust people who tell you the truth. You do not trust people if you do not think they are telling you the truth.

In a society where most of the people say, "There is no such thing as absolute truth." **That simply means that you can trust absolutely no one.** You can not depend on anything or anybody to always tell you

the truth if there are no absolute truths in life. We talked about that fallacy a couple of weeks ago.

That causes stress in our lives because you were designed to be a person of trust. When God made you and God created you, when He designed you, He wired you in such a way that you have the capacity and the desire to trust in something greater than yourself because He wanted you to have a relationship with Him. If you do not learn to trust God, you will create something to trust in. It may be a diploma on the wall. That gives me my *security*. It may be money in the bank. That gives me my *self esteem*. It may be a beautiful husband or wife on your arm. They are my source of *significance*. It may be a career, a goal, whatever. In other words, we often create something to value.

Listen to this simple definition: Any time I trust any person or anything more than God or anytime I value any person or any thing before God that is called an idol. That is a definition of idol. It is when I trust anything or anyone else more than God.

I want to ask three questions:

1. What happens when I trust something else or some one else more than God? There are two negative effects: I am *disappointed* and I am *dominated, controlled*. Look at these two effects with me.

I am disappointed. Any time I expect other people to meet a need in my life that only God can meet, I am going to be disappointed.

We are going to be dominated. The Bible says "You were controlled (notice the word "controlled") by dead idols who led you astray." Whatever you value most in your life. If I said "Make a list of the top ten most important things to you. Put them in order." Whatever is in first place is your god. Whatever is in first place in your life, whatever you value most, eventually controls you.

**Why do we do this?** Instead of just trusting God, why do we start trusting in all these other things to give our life meaning significance, etc.?

**So then, the second question is: Why don't we trust God more?** Why do we end up trusting all these other things instead of trusting God? **The answer is because we really do not know God.**

**You see, if you do not know God and you do not know what He is really like, or you have got some of these phony ideas about Him that you have picked up who knows where, you are not going to trust Him.** On the other hand, if you really know God and you really know how much He matters to you and how much you matter to Him, and if you really know what He has in store for your life and if you really understand that He has your best interest at heart, then you do not have trouble at all following what He says. **Why?** Because I realize He is just trying to help me avoid some pain.

**The alternative to trusting God is worry, conflict, and feeling like you have got to control it all.** That is a very stressful, miserable way to live. **God says, "I've got a better idea. Trust Me!"**

**Why should I do that?** Why should I trust God completely with every area of my life? **Four reasons:**

**1. Because He always tells the truth.** He is the truth. **God is truth incarnate. Truth is defined by God.** He is the essence of truth.

**The Bible says, "We can completely count on him, for it is impossible for God to lie."** Sometimes young people will ask me, "Is there anything God can not do?" **Yes, there are things God cannot do.** He cannot lie. **Why? Because God cannot not be Himself.** God cannot deny His own nature. **God cannot contradict Himself because He is the essence of truth.**

2. **Because He loves me.** He says it over and over in the Bible -- many, many places. He demonstrates it in your life every day. **You were created as an act of God's love.** God thought you up and created you to love you and to let you love Him. You were created as an object of God's love. The Bible says over and over God loves you.

3. **Because He is in control.** Obviously He is in control. Romans 8 says, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose."

**The Bible says God causes everything to work together for good.** He can even take the dumb decisions, the evil, the bad things I have done in my life and use them for good if I will trust Him with it. This is not a promise for everybody. **All things do not work together for good for everybody.** It says, "for those who love God." He causes all things to work together for good for those who trust Him, who say, "Here! You take all the parts. You take all the pieces."

4. **Because God will help me, I can trust Him completely.** There are so many promises that relate to this point. I have chosen the one from Proverbs 3 that says, "Trust the Lord with all your heart, and don't depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success." Jeremiah 29:11-12 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

**God knows what is best for your life!** You are not here by accident. God is simply saying to you, "Don't be afraid. Trust me."

**What I am talking about tonight is the very core of living a life of peace and joy!** Some of you have never really given everything in your life over to God. You have held back your *finances*. **Or you have held back your career.** Or you have never ever really given your *children* over completely to God. And you are saying, "I know better than God in this area. I can not afford to do what God says." On the day

when you decide to trust Him and say, "One hundred percent God, I am going to do whatever You say. You tell me the truth and You love me. I do not care if it is popular. I do not care if it is hard. I do not care if I do not understand it. I do not care if it is difficult or if there are problems with it. I am going to do what You say in my finances, in my relationships, in my time, with my life, with my dreams. And God, I give it all to You. I give You all the things I am ashamed of in my past. And I give You all my hopes and aspirations for the future.." **It will be a rush you have never known.**