

## **Introduction –Have you ever been hurt by someone you trusted?**

I have recently had a conversation with a friend in another state who dreamed about a man (larger than life leader) that we trusted. This trusted leader was fishing for trout (shadow casting)

I have been hurt and disillusioned by men of perceived authority (plural) that I have trusted; for 2 primary reasons in my life. **Firstly**, because of my own deficit and neediness I pour my trust, my energy and my hope into a figure that I believe will meet my need – but I come to find out that I was actually chasing the shadow of the thing that I actually need- which is Jesus Christ. **Secondly**, not only was I deceived by my own broken narrative of need, but I put my trust into men of authority who promised what they could not deliver. Often times I find that my loyalty to perceived authority hinders my boundaries!

**Eph 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead <sup>in</sup> our transgressions, made us alive together <sup>with</sup> Christ (by grace you have been saved),**

We have started a series called "Doing Church - PT 3 Culture of Trust" – What we have learned: At the closing phase of Paul ministry a serious disruption was tearing apart the Ephesus church and community. Some leaders were teaching false doctrine, Paul warned that this would happen (Acts 20:29-31) and now the impact was threatening the life and culture in Ephesus. Paul needed a trusted leader to restore order in God's household, Paul gave this task to Timothy.

*Today's emphasis is taken from 1Tim 1:18-2:7. READ*

**I want to look at these verses from a cultural /relational / emotional /Spiritual perspective**

## **I. Vs 18. How do we build /rebuild a culture of trust? –**

<sup>Vs 18</sup> This **command** I **entrust** to you, Timothy, *my* <sup>[a]</sup>son, in accordance with the **prophecies** previously made concerning you, that by them you **fight** the good fight,

Note: Paul loves Timothy and has walked with him, mentored him for about 15 years. They have a depth together, they share common goals, common faith, values and even language. Paul knew that Ephesus Church needed help and was desperate for honest integral leadership in Christ. In vs 18 Paul is summarizing /somewhat repeating what he said to Tim earlier in 1-7. But he is now using language that is not only instructive but emotional and spiritual, Paul is drawing from a depth that comes from being together and sharing history. –

**He is calling Timothy to Fight for a valuable commodity -Trust!**

*We build a culture of trust by contending for vulnerable, authenticity and truth.*

- A. Trust is something you extend to someone or something by choice. – **Sometimes we get hurt and our trust muscle gets broken!****
- B. It works best when we are authentic keep short accounts with one another – IQ - SQ - EQ**
- C. Trust is not a matter of the heart alone – we must have our "head and heart" in it -Personal prophesy must be weighed with objective truth!**

***Inspiration is powerful but it should never be divorced from commandment(Word of God)***

***Prov. 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.***

Questions for connections:

- Is there anyone in your life that is trusting you with something valuable?
- What do you need in order to keep that trust authentic and truthful?

## II. Vs. 19-20. How do we maintain healthy trust in relationships?

Vs. <sup>19</sup>**keeping faith** and a **good conscience**, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. <sup>20</sup> Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be **taught** not to blaspheme.

*Trust in relationship is something that must be managed and cultivated; Paul was encouraging Timothy to be diligent with his faith toward God and his integrity and vulnerability with others and when issues arise, to deal with them swiftly so they don't contaminate the soil of relationship and culture.*

Henry Cloud says, "Trust is the currency of life" - we must have it and spend it to have meaning in our lives.

**A. Trust is a renewable resource not a consumable one. If you engage trust with your head and your heart trust can live again.**

**B. Learn to engage others in a place of truth and care with honesty and kindness – take a risk –**  
**Come here pain what do you need to teach me?**

***Heb 3:15 <sup>15</sup> while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS <sup>16</sup>WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."***

**C. If there are big issues that need repair or removal -deal with issues swiftly with wisdom – seek help if you need it!**

Questions for connections:

- Can you trust again once you've been wounded – yes, but do so with wisdom!
- How do you deal with conflict in relationships?
- Is there anything in your life right now that you need to **BREAKUP WITH**?

## III. 2 Tim. 2:1-7 – What is the best soil for trust to grow in, individually and as a church?

**2** First of all, then, I urge that **entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings**, be made on behalf of all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in <sup>3</sup>authority, so that we may lead a **tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and <sup>4</sup>dignity**. <sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the <sup>5</sup>knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one **mediator** also between God and men, *the man* Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony <sup>7</sup>*given* at <sup>8</sup>the proper time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a <sup>9</sup>preacher and an apostle (I am **telling the truth, I am not lying**) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**A. Pray about everything, in every way, for everyone – It is so easy to see wrong in other people, to be critical about the way others do things, "I can do that better" – learn to pray instead of criticize, serve...**

**B. A Christ culture ought to be attractive and kind – easy to find Jesus**

1. not entitled, is not exclusive or elite or performance driven
2. This is a place where truth is upheld and practiced in vulnerability and care –

**C. Paul had to emphasize this element of truth because of trust issues in the culture**

**Questions for connections:**

- Do you have hard relationships in your life you need to stop criticizing and start praying for?
- What can you do in order to build or rebuild trust

**IV. Conclusion: 3 types of grip strength – personal illustration**

**V. Questions for action!**

- A. **Do you need healing from broken trust?**
- B. **Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive**