

# *CROSS-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS*

## **Week #2**

### **“Trustworthy”: The Synonym to Faithfulness**

*Vows are a covenantal promise that does not depend on how the other party acts, but still carries the responsibility of what is stated. Additionally, people enter into covenants based on trust or promises from one that is trustworthy. In Genesis 15 we see God make a covenant with Abraham, but God is the only party to vow. God knew His covenant could not be maintained by man perfectly, and so He took the whole weight of the covenant on His shoulders because He knew His own faithfulness (trustworthiness). For us, we look at the promises of God and rest in them because we have come to know the faithful and trustworthy character of God in word and deed. That trust brings a resolute strength to our relationship with God, and it is displayed in the way we walk through situations and circumstances that come up in life.*

*The call for the believer is to be like Christ and to mimic the character of God (1 Peter 1:15-16). The problem is that we are a people quick to make vows, and slow to keep them. Our own trustworthiness often falls short. In marriage, we see vows made to love and cherish only the person we are vowing toward; however, our eyes, minds, and hearts begin to wonder when things don't go our way. At work we are to be known for trustworthiness in tasks we are assigned. Diligent in our work, you could say. Young people as they grow up are entrusted with chores and tasks to show themselves approved and trustworthy. These are just a few examples of ways where a person displays their “trustability”. Trust always brings strength to the relationship. Conversely to that, broken trust breaks and tears down relationships.*

*When we look at the Biblically Excellent trait of being “trustworthy”, we find 3 general observations:*

#### *Trustworthiness*

- 1) Is Not Dependent on Position or Role*
- 2) Demands Ability & Willingness*
- 3) Is Drawn from Christ!*

*A person's position or role does not determine if they should or shouldn't be trustworthy. All believers are called to this attribute. To be trustworthy means that you have the means to accomplish the task and the willingness of heart to see it through. Lastly, we know the only way to become trustworthy is to draw from the life of Christ put into the heart of the believer. In the following pages are short questions and passages for men, women, and young people to consider regarding the trait of trust within Biblical Excellence and relationships.*

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## **MEN:**

*Trustworthiness by definition is 'one who is honorable due to a life of faithfulness and integrity'. In Ruth 3-4 we see that Boaz is already known for his trustworthy lifestyle, and also that he continued to live it out. Part of his trustworthiness was that he acted with expedience on his word, but also how he did it with a heart toward the one he had given his word too. In Ruth 3:13, Boaz promises Ruth that he will act to redeem her if he is given the opportunity. In verse 18 of that same chapter, we see Naomi acknowledging the history of Boaz's faithfulness. Immediately in Ruth 4:1-13 we see Boaz act on his word. As stated, he acts in wisdom and protection of Ruth's interest. He knew the one to act in redemption and excellence must have a heart for the situation. In other words, we can note from Boaz that trustworthiness is a heart issue.*

*Finally, in 2 Chronicles 3:17 we see one of the two pillars to Solomon's temple is named "Boaz". Being a relative to Solomon and David, it makes sense that Boaz's name is associated with a pillar. Not only does his name mean "in it is strength", but his lifestyle of trustworthy, faithful, dependability brought strength to a situation that needed redeemed. What a wonderful reminder that the presence of God at the temple was of the One who is Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11). And those pillars signified the dependable and trustworthy character of God.*

*READ Ephesians 5:25-29 & 1 Peter 3:7...*

*Every man desires to have the trust of their spouse, co-worker, boss, etc. However, the data shows that men today are unwilling to lead a life that brings about that deep trust in the relationship. What do these verses have to say about the focus and heart of the man that makes him trustworthy?*

*READ 2 Timothy 2:2-6...*

*Paul was reminding Timothy that men needed to take the baton and go forward with the truth of God's Word. However, Paul told Timothy that he was specifically to entrust this task to "faithful men". Men who were proven in their labor, focus, and heart devotion toward Christ's body, the church. What can we take away from this about trustworthy lifestyle in any of our relationships?*

*One of the qualifications of man trusted to lead the church is his management of the home... How he loves and cares for his wife and guides his children in the Gospel lifestyle. To be a man of trusted lifestyle, is there anything in life that needs to change? Write it down and take it in prayer to God.*

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## **WOMEN:**

*Trustworthiness by definition is 'one who is honorable due to a life of faithfulness and integrity'. Ruth displayed this attribute throughout the book of Ruth. In Ruth 1:8-18 we see her loyalty to commitments she made and ones she loved (Naomi and God). She could have left, but she remained even in very hard circumstances. She could have gone back to family, friends, and financial security. Instead, she was loyal even when it was going to mean a lack of means and comfort. Notice that this is what Boaz recognized about Ruth! One of her greatest attributes that was noted by Boaz is found in Ruth 2:11. She was faithful and trustworthy, even on a hot, scorching, and hard-working day. It's with this in mind that we can take note of Ruth's trustworthiness and the connection to Proverbs 31. The excellent woman has habits that constantly benefit & uplift her husband and then the rest of the home.*

*The excellent woman is not known for observing her own plans, but rather lifting up and supporting the plans of those she is committed to. This is the design for how God said relationships would work best. Matter of fact, God saved us to get our eyes off of ourselves and onto Him and those around us (Luke 10:25-28). In the home, a woman of excellent character is trusted by her husband, and she is a GREAT and priceless aid to him. Proverbs 31 says this type of woman is worth far more than precious jewels (v.10).*

*READ Genesis 2:18-20 & Ephesians 5:22-24...*

*We know that a tribe full of chiefs is a problem, and a tribe with no leader is also a problem. God knit mankind unique and yet ordered. Same in value, but not same in role. What do these verses show us about God's purpose and value of women?*

*READ Matthew 26:39 & John 1:16-18...*

*We don't often think about it, but Christ is an example to women. Consider that Christ came to do the will of the Father, and He was submissive to it even at great cost! One of the main reasons He came, though, was to reveal and make known the Father... Not Himself. This action of Christ brought glory to the house of God and to all that are part of God's kingdom. What can be learned from this for a woman who is willing to follow and be trusted in her role?*

*A woman should be able to trust that the man has her best in mind; however, the man should be able to trust that, even when things are not going well, his wife is by his side encouraging him and pressing him forward. It comes sometimes at great difficulty and pain, but this is where a woman proves her "Christ-like" trustworthiness to a man... And it brings great benefit to the whole home (1 Corinthians 7:14&16). Do you commit your heart and these things to prayer that God might cause trustworthiness in your relationships?*

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## **YOUNG PEOPLE:**

*Trustworthiness by definition is 'one who is honorable due to a life of faithfulness and integrity'. When we are younger, this is something we need to be raised up and taught. As we talked about in last week's lesson, this is why young people should find time to focus on learning from their parents and other Godly adults they have around them.*

*Since we are talking about relationships, it is important to note to young people that the type of person you want to attract is greatly influenced by the type of person you are. A person who is kind-hearted doesn't regularly find themselves looking for friendship with those that are known for tearing down others. Likewise, a trustworthy person doesn't associate with those who lie and don't live up to their word. Yet a trustworthy friend is very desirable. Proverbs 18:24b tells us that a true "friend sticks closer than a brother." If you are wanting to have friendships, or perhaps a future marriage, with a person who is trustworthy then you should first show yourself trustworthy.*

*READ 1 Corinthians 15:33...*

*As a young person, it is important who you spend time with in life. Jonathan spent time with David, and the two developed a Godly relationship with deep trust. There was no lies between them, and their hearts were always encouraging to one another. Perhaps that relationship is what Solomon wrote about as David's son when he said a 'true friend sticks closer than a brother' (Prov. 18:24b). What can we learn from Proverbs and 1 Corinthians 15:33 about the type of people we choose to be around and trustworthiness?*

*READ Proverbs 12:17-22...*

*Most young people have heard of the story of "The Boy Who Cried 'Wolf'". Part of being trustworthy is speaking truth. God desires truth because He is Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11). What do these verses say are the effects of truthful (trustworthy) lives? What does it say about lying (untrustworthy) lives?*

*If all of your friends spoke and acted like you, what type of friends and relationships would you have?*

*Psalms 119:11 tells us to know God's Word and well, because it will cause us to live rightly and not do evil. What is it that God has taught you in His Word lately?*