



2 TIMOTHY 3, AND VARIOUS OTHER TEXTS

Community Group Study Guide Week of October 13, 2019

We continued our series “Tough & Tender” this week by looking at how to become stable, reliable, steadfast, and trustworthy people. We live in a world where trust is hard to come by, and on the decline. On a broad scale, public trust in major institutions like government and media is rapidly falling, and on a personal level, we all know that people are hard to trust. If we have the courage to look into the darkness of our own heart, it becomes clear that we can’t even fully trust ourselves. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick, who can understand it?”

In the beginning, trust was the baseline. In the presence of God, and in the absence of sin, Adam and Eve were free to be naked without shame, and vulnerable without fear. When sin entered the garden, trust left the garden. Adam and Eve covered their nakedness, ran and hid from God, and turned against one another. Innocence was replaced with guilt, and trust was replaced with suspicion and contention. Like Adam and Eve, we all run from God as well. We run because we fear the punishment our sin deserves. God is Holy and Just and his perfect law demands that we die for our sins.

How can we trust a God whose justice demands that we die? Only by understanding that his love desires that we be shown mercy. How can a good and just God show mercy to guilty sinners without compromising His justice? Only through Jesus Christ. 1 John 4, and Romans 3 tell us that Jesus became the propitiation for our sins. Through his atoning death on the cross, Jesus fully paid the penalty our sins had earned, and in doing so, appeased God’s righteous anger toward sin. By sending His Son into the world, God remained just, but also because the justifier of any who trust in Christ. This is the good news of the Gospel, and it means we can stop running from God in guilt and fear, and instead, run to him for mercy and salvation.

Through Christ, God has made a way to restore the trust we lost in the garden. When we respond by putting our trust in Christ, and building our lives on the foundation of His Word, His stability begins to add stability to every area of our life as well. As we follow the God who is Faithful and True, we become more reliable, steadfast, and trustworthy people ourselves.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand why Christ is trustworthy and how trusting in Him makes us more stable and trustworthy as well.

Heart

To grow in the confidence and humility that come from having a trusting relationship with Jesus Christ..

Hands

To be trustworthy people growing in stability and to hold up others who lack it as we point them to Jesus, the source of our stability.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact

admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact Andy Hoot at andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 10-15, 1 John 4:10;17-19, Romans 3:21-26, & Matthew 7:24-27

1. What stood out to you from these texts or the sermon this week? What did you find challenging, convicting, or encouraging?
2. Why should the Gospel of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ free us to stop running away from God, and instead learn to love and trust Him?
3. Why should the Gospel of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ help us become more reliable, likable, and trustworthy people?
4. Are there any specific areas in your life where you once lacked stability, but now have since grown in stability through Jesus?
5. In 2 Timothy 3, we saw 10 qualities of a trustworthy person that were demonstrated by the Apostle Paul: Integrity, Intention, Faith, Patience, Love, Steadfastness, Persecution, Suffering, Endurance, and Humility. Are any of these areas where you feel you are currently lacking or growing?
6. Why is it important that followers of Jesus aspire to be reliable and trustworthy people that others like to be with, and want to be like?
7. How does Christian community help us grow and stand firm in these qualities?
8. How should the stability we have in Christ help us to better love and serve one another?
9. How should the stability we have in Christ help us to be better witnesses to our non-christians friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.?

Read 1 Peter 3:13-16

10. If you were to evaluate you current self, how likely is it that people around you notice the distinct hope that you have because of Jesus, and how prepared are you to give them an explanation for that hope if they were to ask? Are there things keeping you from being prepared, or from being distinct as a Christian?