

Sermon Title: Trusting Community

Sermon Series: Gospel Directed Community

Scripture: Ephesians 4:22-25

Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart



What do we do with suspicion?

Our Dependence on the Gospel is the foundation for healthy community.

Gospel – Jesus lived, died, & rose to life for you.

Love –

- **No Fear**
- **No Condemnation**
- **No Insecurity**
- **No Shame**

This all leads to Humble Honesty.

Humble Honesty leads to a willingness to extend Grace & Honor to others because that's how God's loved us.

As we have a heart of grace & honor toward those around us, The Gospel directs us to Forgive & Live Forgiven.

It's then that we can start to Rebuild Trust.

1. Choose to _____

2. Choose to be _____

Because God's providence is trustworthy, you must choose to trust and be trustworthy.

Scripture #1: Love Is...

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 NIV

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love is God's vision for community.

If God is love, then His sovereign plans are ultimately good.

John 13:34–35 ESV

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(Love) “always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” —
1 Corinthians 13:7, NIV

Scripture #2: The Story of Ananias & Sapphira

Acts 4:32–5:11 ESV

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.” 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” 9 But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of

those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” 10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

1. Tell the Truth

We must commit to do what we say we'll do, and when we don't, we need to tell the other person.

2. Always Trust God's Providence

When there's a gap between what you expect and what you experience, fill it with trust.

Scripture #3: The Story of Joseph & His Brothers

Genesis 42:6–20 ESV

6 Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. 7 Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." 8 And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not

recognize him. 9 And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land." 10 They said to him, "No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food. 11 We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies."

12 He said to them, "No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see." 13 And they said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more." 14 But Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you. You are spies. 15 By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. 16 Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." 17 And he put them all together in custody for three days.

18 On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: 19 if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, 20 and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

Genesis 45:1–5 ESV

1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3 And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

4 So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5

And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

1. Desperation Catalyzes Trust

2. Look for Trustworthiness.

3. Choose to Trust

Genesis 45:4–5 ESV

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Once we allow the Gospel to transform us...

- Love leads us to humble honesty.
- Our humble honesty moves us to give grace & honor.
- Because we know how much we're loved & forgiven by God, we can't help but repent & forgive one another.
- And, if that's our heart...God will enable us to begin rebuilding trust with one another.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pray together.

2. Why might extending trust be challenging?

3. Is God trustworthy? Why or why not?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What does this passage tell you about God? What does this passage teach you about trust?

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 NIV

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5. Read Acts 4:32-5:11. What trust lessons can we learn from this story?

Acts 4:32–5:11 ESV

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as

were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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6. Read Genesis 42:6-20 and Genesis 45:1-5. What does Joseph's story teach you about extending trust and living in a trustworthy manner?

Genesis 42:6–20 ESV

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7. Why is knowing how much God loves you significant when extending trust to others?

8. How is God encouraging you to convey trustworthiness to someone? How is He calling you to extend trust?

9. Pray for one another.