

## Series: Call of Unity

### Lesson 5: Trust is Built, Not Assumed

Hello everybody. I hope you have been as encouraged as I walking alongside in our **Call Of Unity** series. Together we have learned that moving forward as one body requires humility, a shared purpose, and the power of forgiveness. Today we will dive into another vital tool and also maybe a challenging element of unity: **Trust**.

Last week Amy showed us how forgiveness paves the way for reconciliation—and that true unity cannot flourish where bitterness remains. Before that we discovered that unity demands humility and that our real enemy is not one another but the spiritual forces of evil at work among us. As unnatural as it may feel at times, and as much humility, faith and discipline it takes to forgive past hurts; in order to move forward in a healthy relationship, we need to **build trust**.

**Proverbs 3:5–6** calls us to *“trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”* And **Romans 12:10** urges us to *“honor one another above yourselves.”* **Trust is the soil in which unity grows**, but like any garden, it must be cultivated through consistent care.

Friends, broken trust often begins not with big betrayals but small failures: silence when someone needed a listening ear, promises made and left unfulfilled, or assumptions that leave conversations half-spoken. I know in communities where we serve, whether in Africa, India or even here in the US, respect for elders and reluctance to challenge authority can mean disappointments. Unmet expectations can often lead to broken relationships. As I am sure you all have experienced, when we allow gaps between word and action, rumors or resentment fill the space—and unity unravels.

So how do we rebuild? The answer is Jesus and speak truthfully and with integrity, with care, with love. I know we have always encouraged you to speak the truth in love, but we have seen also that sometimes this noble character of Jesus being misused. Speaking the truth in love should build, mend, strengthen relationships, not tearing one another’s character, shaming one other or defer responsibility in the name of “speaking the truth”. Paul say in [Ephesians 4:29](#): *“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”*

To build trust, we have to follow through on commitments, no matter how small, we demonstrate honor, no matter the cost, we listen with full attention, we show that we care. The words that we say and how we act towards one another, should be an act of worship, echoing our trust in God’s faithfulness.

Friends, as followers of Jesus, and as Christian leaders in our communities, God calls us to a higher standard: Patiently ask clarifying questions, create a safe space for honest dialogue, and own our mistakes quickly and with humility. When somebody trusts you with a tough question, honor that trust with patience and grace.

At its root, trust is a spiritual practice. As we trust God to guide our steps and empower our words, we also pray for the humility to admit when we have fallen short. And rely on the Holy Spirit to heal the wounds that human failure cause. As Proverbs says, acknowledging God in all our ways steers us back when we stray.

As we serve the Lord in our ministry, each of us has a part to play. Before our next lesson, think through your daily rhythms: Do you deliver on small promises? Do you carve out time to encourage someone struggling? When you speak the truth, are you focusing on building one another in love? In your mistakes, do you practice accountability, and do you demonstrate reliability or intentional care?

**Here is a practical challenge for you this week:**

- Identify one team member and one specific way you can show up for them this week—whether it is to pray for one another, a word of encouragement, or simply your undivided attention.
- Reflect each morning on Proverbs 3:5–6, asking God to guide your interactions and keep your commitments.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit’s help to honor others above yourself today and invite accountability by sharing one struggle with someone you trust. Practice repentance, obedience and speak the truth in **LOVE**.

And watch how the spirit of Christ will draw you near to him.

Friends, it truly is a joy to spent time with you all in these lessons, God bless you all and have a great week.