

Brandon: You're listening to CBC Together, a podcast produced by Central Peninsula Church in the San Francisco Bay area. Man, I feel like it's been a really long time since we've, we've been in here together, Kevin.

Kevin: It feels rusty at times. Yeah, it does. It does. We missed, uh, Thanksgiving week. Mm-hmm. Which was good. Sorry for all of you that didn't get to listen, but how was your Thanksgiving? I don't think I asked you that.

Brandon: Um, it was a little lackluster this year.

Kevin: not enough. Uh, not enough stuffing?

Brandon: Well, like normally Katie's family gets together and we did this huge way over the top...

Kevin: oh, okay.

Brandon: Way too much food and-

Kevin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Brandon: We just sit on the couch and like, can't breathe afterwards.

Kevin: meat sweats all day long.

Tryptophan overdose. Yeah.

Brandon: But, um, her brother moved to Tennessee. Okay. Her sister moved to Colorado and that, that critical mass that draws like all the external family isn't there anymore. Yeah. So it was just, it's so funny, our family and Katie's parents.

Kevin: Yeah. We, I like, I've grown up in very small families. Like my dad's an only child. I only knew two of my grandparents and they both passed when I was really young and, and so we just have like this, and my mom's family is kind of dispersed, so we just have this like really small family. And so like big family gatherings are always such like a mystery to me.

Brandon: Really?

Kevin: We're just not used to this. Yeah. So we had, we had a small one, but it was like average for us. It was like we went to my in-laws.

Brandon: I want you to come to a Pasion family gathering.

Kevin: I would. I don't think I have the, the vocal chops for that man. I don't think I could. You'd let me in. Oh, without musically talented. You're crew is-

Brandon: you got some, you got some skills. I've heard you . You could play guitar. I can play guitar. .

I'm

Kevin: laughing cuz You know, I hate that you just shared that cuz I don't tell that to anyone. . Yeah, because I play youth pastor guitar as I affectionately call it, which means I'm pretty good with a capo.

Brandon: You can play caged.

Kevin: Caged.

C A

Brandon: G E D. Yes. . Yes. Right? Yeah. Yeah. That's all you need, man. That's all you need. That's all you need.

Kevin: Speaking of performers-

Brandon: we should switch spots on a Sunday. That'd be really fun.

Kevin: people wouldn't notice cause we looked so much alive. , they would notice when I started singing . But speaking of performing, somebody had a show this weekend!

Brandon: That's. Man, how right in North Carolina, Michael W. Smith was performing with, with Amy Grant .

Kevin: Do you just have a constant Michael W. Smith radar?

Brandon: I do . I see every single one of his posts every single day. . I really do. That's awesome.

Kevin: But bro, you had your Christmas show.

Brandon: I did. And you went, I know, I went. It was for a while there. I didn't think you were gonna go.

Kevin: Yeah, it was mainly cause I was just too lazy to buy a ticket. But I did, I, I got around to buying a ticket.

Brandon: Do you think people are flabbergasted? That I didn't comp you a ticket?

Kevin: I- You offered to your credit. Okay. You did offer. I said I'll support you by paying that ticket. But after seeing a darn near sold out show, I wish I would've asked for the credit ticket. , you didn't need the help, man. You sold it out. No, it was so good. I don't know how to, I

imagine. This is a little later in the week than we normally record, but I know we didn't record on Monday. Cause I'm sure you were just zonked, but it was, yeah, it was so good, man.

Brandon: It was so good. I know. And there's a ton of CPCers there. That could be a ton of others too. It was a really good show and I mentioned. for the first time in front of, uh, you know, I do shows and stuff, but this is the Katie brought, brought it up. Yeah. She said when you called yourself a pastor

Kevin: Yeah.

Brandon: At a, you know, what she calls a Brandon Pasion show, you know? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Very different from worship. And I've kept those two separate for years. Yeah. And in this season, God is integrating, Yeah, which is really, really cool. So good. And so, yeah, I, I called myself a pastor in front of a room of like 800 people. Yeah. .

Kevin: It was so good, man. No, it's fun to watch. Like, I, I, I was driving home and Lindsay was outta town, so I was flying solo. Um, but I was just driving home thinking it's so fun to watch, like the enormous amount of work I'm sure it took to, to put into that. But just seeing you in your element, like doing your thing and kind of, it, it was just, it was a cool, it was a cool night. So thanks. Proud of you, man. You crushed it!

Brandon: It was really really-

Kevin: bring it into Christmas season.

Brandon: All right. I have a, I have a deep one for you to start off with. Hit me with it because I really, I thought your, your sermon was really, really thought-provoking on Sunday. Um, so calling this, calling this podcast trust issues, that's what we're gonna name it. I don't know if Sandy will name it that or not, but yeah, I want to start off with, uh, if you could recall a time, and I'm glad to start, if you can't think of one, but.

Where you have had a massive trust breach, not you creating the trust breach, but someone else like way letting you down. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. And it could be from any time in your life.

Kevin: Okay. The first, the first one I thought of goes back to, this is gonna be man, sixth, or it might have been sixth grade, Kevin May, it might have been seventh grade anyway, ear, early middle school, late elementary

Brandon: school time.

Had you hit your growth spurt yet? Were you as tall as you are now?

Kevin: Um, no. I hit that. ? Uh, no. I was, I was , I was whiter than I was taller. I think at that point. , so I hadn't stretched out yet. Oh, okay. Yeah. Yeah. That hit, uh,

Brandon: that was probably eighth grade. You were in the awkward, like junior high, chubby face.

Oh

Kevin: man. Middle school is so awkward. I was definitely in that awkward face, but I was invited to my first boy girl party. So this was like a big deal by Kristen Colwell, um, who's not listening to this, I'm sure. So I What if she feel like I could do ? That would be so random. But she invited me over for her birthday party, and so it was like a big deal.

Like this is the first one. I'm like, just all sorts of nervous. And she she told me, you know, I forget how many friends are, there's probably like eight friends there, or 10 friends or something. And she told me for her birthday that she was throwing a Barbie themed. and I was like, we're in seventh grade.

This doesn't make sense. I don't understand. But she like sold me on it and so I went all in. So like I went down to the store and like the, I got her like this Barbie as a gift and I'm like, this feels, doesn't feel right. But I didn't want to show up without a gift and be like super awkward. So I show up at the party.

And not only am I the only one to bring a gift, like no one else brought a gift. The one that she opened in front of everyone is this like Barbie. And it was like they all just were just mocking me relentlessly. Oh, so little poor, little sixth grade. Kevin was just torn upon. Why would she do

Brandon: she just

Kevin: to mess with you?

I think it was just a mess with me. Cause all sorts of self-doubt and therapy

Brandon: sessions. You know what I was thinking, like if you like when you write your. Yeah. And you become a, a famous author, .

Kevin: Yeah. There's a big market out there for niche, uh, theology books around the smells of theology .

Brandon: But I feel like, isn't it weird to think like there are people like, you know, that are famous to the level that if they say a name like that, like there's a good chance.

That. Yeah. That's

Kevin: weird that they'll be listening. That they will have, like if Taylor Swift Yeah. Mentions a childhood friend or write an, it's everywhere. It's everywhere. They're not avoiding that. Oh, that would be horrible. That sounds like I would not want to know a famous person. Right. That's what, that's

Brandon: what it sounds like.

Yeah. It's, or at least do something bad to a famous person. Yeah.

Kevin: What's your trust story? What's your, um, failure.

Brandon: David Herbolzheimer.

That is

Kevin: Herbal Shimer. Yeah, that is. I think I said this earlier to you cause you told me this name. That is the perfect childhood friend name. David Herbe Shimer. It's

Brandon: perfect. I don't want you hanging out with David Herbal Shimer anymore. . Yeah, I was, uh, as I've said before, sixth grade was a tumultuous time for, it's the worst man for me, but it was, it's so bad.

It was my, my brand of hard was because we were homeschooled in fourth and fifth grade, and so when we reintegrated back into sixth grade, not only were we coming back into public school Yeah. And like shocked by how far kids had advanced . Like I saw someone like kissing someone in the hallway. Yeah, yeah.

Then it was some eighth graders that kissed in the hallway and. Was traumatized. I couldn't believe it. It's like, I've only seen this in the movies. My mom and dad don't kiss like that . But, uh, anyway, so this in Iowa, are you in Iowa? Yeah, in Iowa. So that's the other thing that

Kevin: makes it, David Hermal Shimer sounds like an Iowa name too.

That's good.

Brandon: But when you, uh, when you're in, when you go to a school for the first time in Iowa, these kids have grown up together. Yeah. Everyone small town live in, they don't leave like, even like, it's not like a transient area. They, they. They're there for generations. Yeah. And so everybody knows the herbal shimmers and Yeah.

You know, this guy, these people from California that say soda instead of pop , um, you really stick out. And so I was trying so hard not to stick out, but I joined the band and David Herber Schimmer was a drummer and he had these sticks. They were like, I still remember them. Exactly. They were like hot pink drumsticks on like the first half of the stick.

And then the bottom had like a spray painted grip. Oh yeah. And they were like, so, you know, I was just dreamy. Yeah, yeah. and I was a drummer too. And so, um, that was my first instrument and he, yeah. That's awesome. Yeah. And so he convinced me that I should buy these sticks. Yeah. And like they're, they're, I was like, those are so cool.

Hot pink, and, you know, like nineties all the way . And he is like, yeah, I mean, you could buy 'em from if you want. They're pretty cool. And I was like, well, how much would they be? He

goes, well, they're, they're really expensive, you know, cut you a deal. And I think he was gonna sell 'em to me for like \$20.

Yeah. And at that season in our lives, \$20 was a big ask. Yeah, yeah. You know, I, I think, like, I went home and offered to mow like a lawn and they paid me like \$2. Yeah, yeah. Like, so I, I begged my parents, they had no money and so I just worked and worked and worked and tried to like, you know, come up with Tony \$20 and I finally did.

And I bought the drumsticks off and he was just like, he sold like features that don't exist on drumsticks, you know? He was like, yeah, when you hit these, they, if you hit 'em just the right way, they light up. You can never, you can never, you never see it, but you know, . Oh my gosh, that's amazing. Yeah. and I finally, or the shoes, the La

Kevin: Gears, the la Gears of Drumsticks.

Brandon: I loved, I loved LA Gear, and they came up with, With the Reebok pump, uh, lookalikes. Yeah. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Because no, my parents wouldn't buy me the Reebok pumps cuz they were like 120 bucks. . But the la had 'em, they ear pumps. . . That's awesome. to make your shoes tighter. Anyway, this is going on way too long.

But essentially I went to, uh, we were at some music store or something and I saw the sticks and they. Five bucks .

Kevin: And that's after you'd paid him 20, after I'd

Brandon: paid him 20 bucks, you know, was playing herbal Shimer strikes again. And I didn't, I, I even, I was so innocent. I, I didn't even think that, I thought maybe it was just a mistake.

And that he was mistaken. They

Kevin: were like mislabeled, like, like you went to the, the store owner. Like,

Brandon: did you have the wrong price on these? Or that, that David misremembered that he got the wrong sticks. Oh, okay. Or something, you know, or he, he got ripped off, you know. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Like, I just, there's no, you were defending him.

I didn't have categories that he would've just Mm. Lied to me. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Um, just same, same way with the birthday party. Yeah. With you. Like you didn't when there we

Kevin: trust. Yeah. It seems weird, but I would assume you're telling the truth. Why would you wanna hurt me? Yeah. You know what? Why would you make that kind of decision?

Brandon: It's, it's the saddest thing. Yeah, yeah, yeah. When you look at junior hires, realizing how harsh the world is, that that's what makes junior high so hard. That's a good point. And I feel like that's, that's getting younger and younger too. Like Yeah. There are elements of that that Charlie, my eight year old is experiencing now.

Yeah. You know? Yeah.

Kevin: Which, which like churns, you know that, that's why I think often you come outta middle. With the sort of like cynicism towards the world, right? Because it all of a sudden looks a little bit bleaker than it did going in that like mystique of it. As a kid, that's like just everything turning up roses, you know, for most people, obviously this is.

speaking in generalities with people's, you know, experiences as a child, but in a, in a normal setting. Yeah. That, that kind of wears off in middle school.

Brandon: It's tough, but I think, you know, because of that and probably a lot of other reasons that require extensive counseling, we have, we have trust issues.

Yeah. That, that, I mean, that's kind of what I was pulling from this because you talk about this, this, this advent season and, and this struggle between the tree of life Yeah. And the tree of knowledge of good between these two trees. , um, oh, no, no. Between the Tree of Life and then Between The Tree of Life.

Again,

Kevin: reemerges in the Tree of Life, Revolut in 21. Yeah. And we struggle. Life is hard. Yeah. Between those. Yeah. Yeah,

Brandon: yeah, yeah. And a lot of that is this struggle of trust.

Kevin: Yeah. Yeah. And we come, and that's where I think there's. This, you know, this is why I love the advent season is because we rush into Christmas so much.

And that story I told of, of, uh, Madison, my middle, my middle schooler, speaking of sixth graders, um, kind of coming to grips with the reality of the world. Like how can we celebrate when there's like war and brokenness and racism and hunger and like all these different things. And I think it's because we tend to run, run straight to Christmas and like the joyful season.

But again, the teaching of the church calendar would be that we, we celebrate advent before, and that's that way of just remembering that the, the story in which the incarnation takes place when Jesus is born and comes into the world is it's in the, it's not in the midst of. just life is normal. Yeah. Like it's into a very dark night that Jesus comes.

Like it's, it's the people of God being crushed by the Romans, um, more or less in like utter obscurity, thinking there's no way we could conquer this massive empire. Like all hope is lost. And yet they had this story, this long story they had told generation after generation about God's promise of the Messiah.

And it's into that story that, that joy comes. So when you get this like joy to the world, the Lord has come, like we sing that flippantly like, oh, it's post Thanksgiving. We just start singing that. But there's no context for like, the darkness of something like Advent. Yeah. Where it's like we

recognize the brokenness of the world and I'm, I, I just think it's, it's one of the, I think one of the beautiful things the church has to offer the.

Is a coherent story of brokenness cuz the world doesn't have categories. Kinda like how you didn't have categories for, um, herbal Shimer or whatever his name was, to like, think of that brokenness. Like in some ways Advent gives us that language and that story to say the world is broken, but that's not the end of the story.

Yeah. Which is the importance of, of I think experiencing at, it's the same thing with Lent, right? Lent looks into our looks square at death and says from dust you came to Dusty shower. And so it doesn't skirt the harsh realities of the world. It looks them in the eye and then provides the hope right of Jesus coming, of God becoming flesh into that brokenness.

And so it doesn't cause us to look past those things, but it contextualizes something like joy and happiness. It removes it from circumstances cuz then it's something. And it can then absorb kind of the brokenness of those particular circumstances. So, um, anyway, so it steps into that kind of like those trust issues, like which is really that life between the two trees is us wrestling with, with do we trust in the brokenness that God is still moving and working, or do we seize control and say, now the only one I can trust is myself and so then I have to go and make those particular choices or whatnot.

Yeah.

Brandon: You know, I was thinking when you were saying that Advent is something that we can actually offer the. . And, and there's a lament in the, in that, in the midst of that. Right? Yeah. And, and also with Lent, I had a worship leader. Tell me, um, a colleague, I wouldn't necessarily say he was a friend, but a worship leader colleague.

Tell me a couple years ago, there's no place for lament Mm. In a church service. Ah, we always need to keep it joyful and positive.

Kevin: Yeah. , I think that's so damaging. I know. What, where does

Brandon: that come from? Why we don't want people to feel sad, like

Kevin: I think that is, I think it's an addiction to our emotions.

And again, like as we look at kind of the modern world, and even like I think in particularly our context in America and even more so maybe even in the Bay Area, is that the majority of people have the means to numb most of their deeper pain. And so then why would we expose that when we can just cover it up and rush?

Or buy the next thing or take the next trip. And in some ways it does make you feel good. Like even even putting it into the story in Genesis one and or two and three, Eve looked at the fruit and it did look good. It was good and it was good for wisdom. But again, it's that, it's the, it gets

back to the trust thing like, and I don't think that's flippantly saying like it looked good, but really it's poisonous.

It looks like, I think it's a genuine, it looks enticing and I think at times the church can. , um, can lean into that joy because we do have the most hopeful story in the world that is coherent. Yeah. But it has to still make sense of the fact that like, on the way to that hope Jesus died. Like we, we can't o like that's the, the pinnacle.

Yeah. We can't overlook that. And I think the, he could've saved the world in any way he wanted, but what he's doing in there is, I think that it's Jesus. It's God entering into the very human condit. and there's a sort of empathy that FO is fostered there and, and so it then removes that sort of need for circumstantial happiness or joy.

And says, no, we can carry all of that baggage that's just inherent to being human. Um, and then we can actually deal with it. Cuz if we just sit and joy, we suppress it. We don't ever actually deal with the underlying issues there. Which when we get to like revelation, then when we see that tree pop up again.

Yeah. It's creation, remade, brand new from the inside out. Like all of creation. Not just our own souls, but the very material world. Remade void of brokenness. Then we can sit. But right now there's, there's very real, like rot Yeah. If you will, that we have to stare at. And lament, I think is actually like, man, I think it's one of the greatest gifts because, because the world can't lament, they don't have a coherent story to really lament.

Yeah. But the

Brandon: church does. Yeah. If, if you have, I mean if you think about it, if you have no hope to point to. then. Yeah. Running from Lament is your only option. Yeah. Let me try to stave it off as long as I can. Yeah. Let me try to spend outspend it. Let me try to out love it. Mm-hmm. , let me try to mm-hmm. , you know, out, travel it, whatever.

Yeah. Like, and you see this frantic, like, let me just put as much as I can between me and what's really awful about this world and you're seeing massive rises, rises of, of depression and suicides and, and this

Kevin: is where even like the act of confession. Is such a gift because confession offers you the opportunity to deal with the brokenness.

Where if we run from confessing our sins, whether it's to others or you know, to to God or to, you know, whatever it is like, and obviously, The practice of confession has been distorted over the, over the years too. Of course, there's always that side of it, but confession is a way of saying, I recognize brokenness.

I recognize my, my own ability to contribute to brokenness, and so I'm going to confess that. And then it actually is the, the beginning place of healing. Yeah. And if you don't have that

beginning place, , you can't ever heal. And so to outspend out, you know, travel out, experience our own pain and brokenness never actually brings healing.

Like you have to

Brandon: look and there's always a moment where it catches you. Yeah.

Kevin: And then, and it blows up far more. You know? And, and even if it doesn't ever catch up to you, cuz I, there is a sense where it, you know, it probably will, but you could suppress it enough, spend enough if you're in the right kind of, you know, economic class.

But there's that deep ache that's always. It's always,

Brandon: I mean that's, well, I'll tell you, you know, something that Tony and I talked about with the show, and Tony, for those of you that don't know, is he plays keyboard every here, every week, show the maestro, but he also created like 12 original string arrangements for that show, which, that's incredible.

If I, I wish I could describe to you what kind of work, I can't even imagine on so many levels how much work that is for him. Yeah, yeah. But you know, we were talking and we put together this whole show, and we've been, we've been working on it since, you know, . Yeah. And so you basically have half a year of not thinking about it and then you go to work again on it.

Yeah. And. And we were just talking about how when it was over, you know, I , you know, so the whole thing, you know, for three hours you work for six months. For three hours. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And then like, I packed up my stuff, you know, most people like leave really soon. So it's me and like, you know, four other people at the theater at like 1230, you know, getting, getting things done,

Yeah. And I was describing him my drive. . Mm-hmm. . And you know, we had gotten, we had gotten in and out as a team, you know, it was like five of us. And then I drove home with my In-N-Out and Tony who said he got a sandwich at Safeway. Yeah. And he went home and. Sat down with his sandwich all by himself and we just described sort of the moment that we both experienced after it and how Yeah.

Fast. Yeah. Those things. How fleeting it is. Yeah. How fleeting it is and how the things that we like if we want to take that show, like if that show is, if the point of it is to make us feel valued and worthwhile. Um, which is what we do, right? Yeah. With all these other things that we mentioned. Yeah. If that's the point of the show, it works for about three hours.

Yeah. , and then it's the hardest fall Yeah. In the world. And then, and then you start having to lean on other stuff, like, let's hear what people thought of the show. Yeah, yeah. You know, you know, what did you think? And so, you know, that that stuff never really goes away. But thank God, you know, I've, I've done the work with.

um, where that isn't the driving force behind. Yeah, yeah. What I do,

Kevin: it's, yeah, it's the trapping of Christmas, right? Like, and I love, like, I love Christmas time, like the Friday after Thanksgiving, I'm all in like I'm lights and the tree and Dean Martin and B Crosby and like bring it on. Like I love it. But there is that moment when you pack up all the decorations, put 'em back in your garage and you realize it didn't fully satisfy.

Mm. If it's only about that. But if it's about. God's movement in the world and that ultimate hope that we have to restore our own like longings and wants, like that's to come and that will in fact come. And so that has like this deeper healing effect. If we can push beyond, right. The tinsel and the lights and, and that's all fun to do.

Like I'm not even one that's down on that, but they point to a greater reality.

Brandon: You said something that I thought, um, that spurred on another question I think is really important. You said that Jesus could. Could have chosen to save the world in any way he wanted him. Yeah. Do you think that, do you ever wonder like why Jesus didn't come as a super baby?

Kevin: My head went to like a thousand different places on what a super baby is. .

Brandon: Like ,

Kevin: like I do your kids. Does your kids ever watch this show? Boss?

Brandon: Yeah.

Kevin: Oh, that's a remind. It's like CEO Jesus just strutting around in its suit and tie super baby.

Brandon: Oh, uh, no, but you talk. I tried to, I tried really hard to set that up so seriously.

You did. I was ready for a deal with my most sincere voice . Um, you talked about work, I thought it was really interesting that, that, you know, work actually, um, before the fall was like a good thing. Yeah. You know, and but the, the way that you, the context that you put that in is, um, that God actually gave us, Some of his authority, like when you see him setting up that garden and you know, naming the animals and all that kinda stuff.

He gave us authority to Coru. Yeah. With him. Mm-hmm. . And the whole problem is, is what we did with that. , yeah. Authority, right? Yeah.

Kevin: Yeah. There's, you know, that, um, I forget what verse it is in there, but it says that, you know, he placed Adam in the garden to work it and take care of it. And, and those, those two verbs become really important because they're the, uh, they're getting like the meaning to what the, the human is doing.

Like in some ways it's getting at that question of like, was God just bored? And so he created a world, No, that's not why God created the world. Like he, he wanted to enlist us in co ruling over

creation. And, and so when, I mean, when, when it says he that we were made in God's image, that that is, I mean, that.

That's that sentence or that those kind of, that moment is so deeply profound cuz it gives in, you know, independent dignity to, in each individual life. Like that's a huge piece of it. But one of the things we often overlook is that, that idea of imaging is the idea of ruling that's royal language. Um, in the same way that you would have.

Um, a particular ruler, like let's say it's a, a mayor is supposed to rule on behalf of the larger governing body. Like it's to image, um, that rulership in a particular area. And so when God says you're created in the image of God, the, the idea is when he places us to work it and take care of it, is he's saying, go now and rule over creation as if in the same way that I.

Wow. And so that's the, the task of the human, which is why work is around pre fall. Pre sin is, it's a good thing. Like, and I think we feel this, I think particularly in our area, very driven area, um, where we have this innate. Desire to build and to create and yeah, to bring beauty out of chaos. Like that's what it means to be human.

And what you see at the, that the, you know, the, the example of the two trees, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge, good and evil is in our authority. God has given us that choice, that free will to then act and image either God or ourself into the world is what you see in that moment is, is the human wrestling with the decision?

Will I then, in the man. Will I image God? Will I rule in the way as if God were me? Or will I rule in the way that I desire and bring about my good ends? Yeah. And in some ways, to co-create the world with God, to be a co ruler with God, um, necessitates that we have the freedom to then choose. and to give us that opportunity to have free will and to be able to decide and to create and do all of that, like it's, it's by its nature that's, that's necessary, which is profoundly beautiful.

Yeah. Because that makes God vulnerable to us doing exactly what we did Right. And didn't

Brandon: break us up. If you think about how inefficient. . Yeah. . How inefficient A way that is Yes. For God to the way we look at it and, and I feel like we just get this wrong all the time. Like he involves us in, in a way that makes it.

Yeah. It's arguably much messier and harder. Yes. Right? Yeah, yeah, yeah. Like you came, tell, tell the analogy that you Yeah, yeah.

Kevin: The example I think of is, so like, you know, our, our Sabbath practice, we used to do donuts, but our family has shifted now. It's been a big shift in the Sneed house. We make waffles every Saturday morning now.

Um, and, and one of the things, you know, I can make, I can make bisque waffles in about four minutes, I'm pretty sure. And it'd be pretty darn clean. Like it's not gonna get a big mess. But the

beauty in it, right, is that Adley, every single Saturday, my little six year old's, like, dad, I wanna make the waffles with you.

Right? Which, Immediately. If it wasn't Sabbath, I'd probably be like, no, I gotta get to work or whatever. Like, I don't want you to help me.

Brandon: But because it's sba, it's have much more, yeah, much more, much

Kevin: more pain is I usually say yes to that. And so what that usually entails is right. She pulls up a chair next to the counter, she's like, I wanna pour this in, I wanna stir this.

And it is like a freaking bomb went off in our kitchen where there's just bisque everywhere, right? Like, Every day there's eggshells in the waffles, like the whole bit. Um, and so I know it's inefficient. I know it's

Brandon: not nearly eggs. Eggs in the waffles. Do waffles have eggs?

Kevin: Yeah. You gotta put one egg in there.

It helps congeal everything.

Brandon: I didn't know that. If you use pancakes, don't though, right? No. Pancakes.

Kevin: Pancakes have two eggs, I believe, at least according to bisque. Oh, crusties. Do you use crus? That's like, just add

Brandon: water. I don't even know what I use. I clearly, it's been a long time since I've been, since you've made a waffle.

Kevin: But, but that's the idea, right? Is, is me in my authority over the waffle situation on Saturdays, give Adley some authority and say, Hey, I want to co-create with you. Mm-hmm. . And that inherently opens it up to being more vulnerable. And that's what we see God doing. And so when he gives that choice, the humans again, I mean the two trees, the choice between the two trees plays.

in every single day of our life, every single day, every biblical character, every one of us are faced with that choice. Will I rule in the manner of God or will I seize autonomy and seize my own power? And then see what happens. This is the,

Brandon: the, the struggle. Yeah. Of humanity. Yeah. You know? Yeah. And you, you even mentioned it, you know, when you, what's the very next story after the garden?

Yeah. It's can

Kevin: enable, it's, can enable it's murder right there introduced, right? Mm-hmm. . Which is why I think, you know, when God poses that question, uh, you know, which is really the, the first

command, I love, the first command that, that God gives in all the scriptures is eat, eat. Uh, you know, when we talked about it, he says, the very first thing he says is, enjoy my.

go out, eat of anything here. I've made this. I want you to enjoy it. Eat of the tree of life. It's there. If you partake in it, it's available. He says, but don't eat from that tree, which is again, representative of seizing control, seizing authority. Mm-hmm. Living under your own wisdom. And then again, the phrase there is, you'll die.

Die. You know? He's saying, you'll surely, you'll surely live and enjoy life. Or you'll surely.

Brandon: and we, we've kind of, we've applied something to this scripture, or maybe a lot of us have been taught something in this scripture as we've grown up, as God's saying, you know, uh, I'm

Kevin: gonna kill you and

Brandon: I'll kill you.

Yeah, yeah. If you eat this, I will kill you. Mm-hmm. , which you're kind of saying we need to look at

Kevin: it. It's nowhere in the text. Yeah. Yeah. It's nowhere there. It isn't. It's, it's a punishment insofar as when, because God has our best interest in mind, when we disobey, it leads to less than. It's like it's a punishment in that sense, but, but it's not the heavy handed I'm inflicting death on you.

It's death is the result of not living into the way of Jesus and the way of God. It's almost like a

Brandon: warning of Yeah. What could happen. Yeah. Like, like, uh, you'd mentioned like, if, if. , you know, you don't want your kid to go out and play in the street.

Kevin: Yeah, yeah. It's not like, not because I'm gonna kill 'em if they do Yeah.

but because cars drive there. Yeah. And that could very well swell up in that. Mm-hmm. . And so we project this image kind of onto God of this angry, and, and again, there are times, no doubt, oh, throughout the scriptures where God does in fact punish directly and, and, and to help correct a child. It's the same thing of when I ground Adley for playing in the street, I do inflict a kind of punishment on her.

But it's for her benefit. But in this instance, it's not disobey and die. It's, I want you to enjoy all of this, but just know that if you seize control, this will lead down a path you don't want to go. It'll lead to death. Um, and so there's kind of this big kind of, um, again, I think a projection onto God, which I think really frames how we understand God, because if that is that God, that angry God that's waiting to punish and kill us, then of course we have trust.

that makes a hundred. It makes a ton of sense. Yeah. That I wouldn't trust that God. But if the story as it's written in Genesis one and two is I've created this for you, you have full access to the gift of eternal life right here. It's available. Partake in this, then that's a God you can trust. Yeah. It's built on that good news.

Not necessarily the the beginning. The story begins in Genesis one, not Genesis three. And often we speak of God as if it begins with sin, but it begins with good. ,

Brandon: but this idea that, that God, you know, in so many ways in the, in the advent season and the Christmas story, you know, um, makes himself vulnerable.

Yeah. Uh, this idea that, you know, in order for us to be free to love him, to freely choose to love him mm-hmm. , we also have to be free to reject him.

Kevin: Yeah.

Brandon: Yeah. Yeah. And he, and he. that in many ways he in, he would be rejected by us.

Kevin: Yeah, yeah, yeah. There is that, like, that paradox, if you will, right. Of, of love.

Love can never be coerced. Hmm. Um, or else it becomes less than that. You know what I mean? Which is the, the beauty of like when you, when we think of God as this triune three in one being, which all, with all of this kind of mutual self-giving love to one to the other, like the essence of that is pure selflessness.

Built into the very essence of kind of like the being of God. He's saying that's how love works is this constant flow of like laying your life down for the other kind of thing. Yeah. And the only way to do that is if you, again, as you said so well, like you have the choice to not, um, it's the only way that you can lay your life down for the other, and, and so God just embodies that.

Hmm. You know, you need to see that so clearly here.

Brandon: There are definitely times when I want to, , my daughter, Olivia, to love me. .

Kevin: It'd be easier if

Brandon: you could, right. ? Yeah. The other night she, she gave me a hug and it was the Happi. Uh, I told Katie, I was like, I'm gonna ask Olivia for your hug. What do you think?

My chances are actually getting a hug. Uh, and she's like, one in a million and she gave me a hug. It was the happiest moment life. See, you're telling me there's a chance, but if I could put a chip in her brain to give me hugs, it wouldn't mean anything. . Exactly. You know, it would, the neural link void.

Kevin: Yeah.

The, the neural

Brandon: link.

Kevin: That's what, that's what I know what Elon's working on. It's like, ah, terrifying.

Brandon: Um, so I want you to, this is really fascinating and um, I don't know if this is, uh, if this is a sidetrack. Yeah. But this idea. Of death as a mercy. Can you, yeah. Can you unpack that a little bit more? Yeah.

Kevin: So you see that like once, once the human chooses to rebel right to, to seize authority on their own, to image themselves, not image God into the world.

The spiral effect, as we mentioned, is Kain and Abel. That results in like this guy Lamek who's cheering over the murder of like seven times seven. I forget the way he words it. So that then swells up into the tower of Babel, which is the sort of systemic injustice. The systemic sin where it's integrated.

Even beyond the individual human, but into the culture. Um, like there's all this say we want to be God. Yeah, exactly. We wanna be God, we wanna seize, we know what's best. And so you see this just spiral effect of sin. I'm glad we

got

Brandon: over that, that complex of one. We never

Kevin: struggle with any of that anymore.

Yeah. never, but it's, uh, so then right after kind of, they, they seize that, that autonomy and they rebel. Um, God exiles them from the garden. Because they say, it says explicitly in there, if you part, if they were in this state of brokenness to partake in the tree of life, they would live forever in that broken state.

And so what? What? When God exiles them, we see that as, again, this kind of, we tend to read into it as a heavy handed punishment, but think about the, think about what could have been if you're bent towards evil. , and then there's never an end to that. You never die. Oh man. I mean, that's a sort of, again, a sort of hell that we can't even comprehend.

Yeah. And so the exiling from the garden is this deep mercy of God, because then whatever evil is perpetuated by any individual human. . It's, it's, it's limited by the essence of its life. Yeah. Like at some point that person will die. There

Brandon: will be an end to the evil from a particular person. Exactly. From a

Kevin: particular person.

Obviously it spirals out into systemic and all that, and that's, that's all coming to an end as well. But there's a limiting effect to that, that it can't just time, over time over time continue to grow

and perpetuate. It can be passed on. Um, but when he exiles them, it's this deep act of mercy that's saying, I'm gonna fix this.

I'm gonna fix this deeply human problem. Um, but it's gonna take time, if you will. And we have to then expel you. We have to keep you from living forever. And so death becomes this deeply like merciful act because death is not the final step. Yeah, yeah. Without the resurrection, it would've been this very dark moment.

But because resurrection and new creations, Death is actually an act of mercy, um, for the state of broken humans. You know, I don't, obviously, I don't mean that flippantly if, um, you know, part of that brokenness is, is innocent people die all the time and, and people are taken too quick, of course. But when we just look at kind of the average case, like death is a mercy because God's recreating the world and he's making it new.

And then he will one day in the resurrection of all things, invite us back into that to where we can then see a garden restored. Yeah. Um, and renewed and actually made into a city something even more than the garden, um, where we live forever into that.

Brandon: Um, you, you kind of, uh, boiled a lot of this down into maybe one question, and that is, do you trust God knows where God has, what's best for you?

Um, and I guess maybe one question I'll, I'll ask you in response to that question is, do you think that we always know what's best for us? Do we

Kevin: think we always know? Oh, I would say easily,

Brandon: no. Do you think we always know if we trust God or not? No. Do we

Kevin: always know what's best for us? Oh, no. , that's super easy.

That's why I was like, are you sure you're asking that? Oh my gosh. I think, I don't think we always know. I think, and it happens I think in two different layers, right? Like the first layer. At a functional, how I actually live, whether or not it aligns with what I would verbally say I believe. Like, and those are always, you know, not always, but they Aspirational verse, yeah, yeah.

Verse, yeah, exactly. Those are always often out of step, like part of being a mature, integrated person is bringing those more and more into alignment. Yeah. Yeah. Um, but they're always at a step. And so there's always that functional, like, you know, this, the, this, that kitschy example I'll use forever Go, right?

Is like, I know salad and chicken is what I should eat every single night. Like just, you know, grilled chicken breast. But man, do I love Greek food, what I had last night, like I love a good like, you know, uh, taco or something. And so it's like that same sort of thing. Those are out of step, our thinking and our loves are.

But then the other place it takes is, is I think we do get into those positions where even, even in our idealized state, like where we want to say we know what's best, we still give in and fail to that. Like that's, um, that's a Titus right? Says the one who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it.

Sins. Yeah. Like that's like of course that's in us where I know. And that's called rebellion. Yeah,

Brandon: exactly. Yeah. An outright kind of, that's where you say, I know. Mm-hmm. , you know mm-hmm. , I'm gonna do it anyway. Yeah. And, and yeah, we've all kind of been at that place

Kevin: at some point. And what's hard often with that?

Or maybe what's so unrelenting on that is often in those moments when we know we shouldn't do it. Those aren't necessarily always like the big things. Like sometimes they are, but often they, it plays out in more culturally accepted sense. Yeah. Yeah. Where it's like, just take a few more extra drinks, just sleep with that person.

Just cut corners on your taxes. Just do this to get the raise. and those in those kind of culturally acceptable sins are where I think we see the devastation fall and where, where I think a lot of this trust is tested more because it, it feels more benign. It's, again, it's eve looking at the fruit. Ah, it looks kind of good and it probably will advance me in my career.

Like sometimes the, the lie they tell actually comes true in the sense of it does get you what you think it would get you, but it might not be what's for your ultimate best and what. Is, is trying to grow in us. You

Brandon: know what's funny is, um, even, even thinking about this with Adam and Eve, something kind of a principle that I've, I've learned over my years of rebellion is if you want, you can, you can always find someone to join you in your rebellion.

Yeah. You know, you can find someone that will help you justify Yeah. What you're doing, you know? Yeah. I, it almost seems like in a. . Adam was that person for Eve. Yeah.

Kevin: Yeah. I I, it's funny, I would've flipped it the other way cuz you see Adam kind of in the back just hanging out. Yeah. And I think of it more a little bit like, I want to do what she does, but I'm gonna let her get in trouble.

You know what I mean? Like, , it's that like, oh, I never do it. You know? And, and, and I think it is, I think there's that sense and, and think again of how we're created. Getting back to even that idea of, of God is Trinity, God is community. Cause we are social. And so there is a social dynamic to it that it constantly is pulling towards because that's who we are.

And, and in that brokenness of course, that expands into that space. Yeah. Where you're like, yeah, I could find someone else to do this with. And then it it, you justify it in your head. Everyone was doing it. You know, it's the classic like, go back to middle school peer pressure conversation you have, right.

Like, we become like who we hang. Um, more often than not, and it doesn't mean we seclude ourselves, but it means like, like David Herbolsheimer, like David Hermal, Shimer man. Like I bet you were slinging those like pedalling drums. 25, 25 bucks. You know, you, you flipped them. Gotta make it back, man. Yes, . So, but I think this question of trust, um, you know, I think is so, and we're gonna look at that a bit this week when we look at Psalm one as our text.

So we look at that tree, find a sort of trust. Apple Music Library. Siri, my Apple Watch couldn't find trust. That's what she just blurted out. Even

Brandon: Siri has a hard time. That's

Kevin: trust issues. Yeah, but we'll look at this again. The, the, the tree planted by the, the, the streams of water is again this choice of trust of, like, it, it, it really gets down to this, again, this idea of allegiance.

Like where is your allegiance? Is it foremost with God or is it foremost with yourself? Uh, then that'll, that'll cause a lot of problems if it, if it isn't with God.

Brandon: So I think there are probably people. , chances are there are probably people that listened on Sunday or maybe even hearing this now that could be in kind of an active rebellion.

Like they, they're, they're living in something or they're a part of something or whatever, and they're saying, you know what? It looks good. It feels good. I know it's not right. I know it's not good for me, but I'm just doing it anyway. Um, yeah, but I, I think there are also probably people. that are maybe not looking close enough and they're assuming that they just, that the path they're on, they know it's the best or they think it's the, it's what's best for them.

Hmm. But God might actually have something different. Yeah. Um, what would you say to someone like that?

Kevin: Yeah, I, I would, I, I think I'd probably take the posture. That I see so often with God and, and Jesus, Jesus, you see it all over of like, there's two paths to life, the narrow path that leads to life and the wide one that leads to destruction.

And he's not, again, this like hammer smacking you into that space. He's just saying, here's your choice and take it, take it for where you want. And, and so I think with that person I would just, I would just challenge them to think like, is that what you most deeply. Mm. Like, do you really desire that? And how has that played out in your life?

And it may not even have been a train wreck, but just launch that out over the next 30 years. You know, like I think of that the, the passage that keeps coming to mind is when Jesus, um, that passages on prayer where he says, don't go into the street corners and pray for all to see. He says, because if you want them all to see, You'll get that reward.

Yeah. It's like you'll get that, that that's what you want. You'll get it. But kinda like what you said that as you're, as you're driving outta the In-N-Out, you know, uh, drive-through that night after,

after your show, it was like, huh, if I really wanted the praise and glory of people, I got it for three hours.

I got it, and now it's done. And now what? You know? And if you didn't have a deeper kind of source of meaning and identity, yeah. That would be a very kind of nihilistic broken moment where you're like, that's. . But Jesus says instead, you know, he says, don't pray on the corners, but go into your closet. Yeah.

Pray in silence where your father hears you. He says, if that's what you want, if you want the eye and the affection of God, it's there for you. It's just gonna be done in a different way. And so I think that's, that's where all these decisions play out. What is your deepest desire? And I would just suggest I, I think we're creator.

I know we're created for eternity. It's been placed in the heart of man. And that longing that you may have, you can. , but I just wonder if it's gonna leave you high and dry at the end of it, cuz there's something more that, that you're creative for and that you long for.

Brandon: Um, I'm wondering if you can read to close this.

What brought my, what came to my mind is Jesus, and maybe you can do it from memory. Are you tired? Mm-hmm. You know, are you heavy laden?

Kevin: Yeah. Yeah. Come to me. All who are weary and heavy laden. Yeah. And I'll give you rest. We feel that ache. In our souls. Even if, even if things aren't exploding or imploding in our lives, most of us feel the ache that maybe the alignment isn't there, that maybe what we're chasing is not bringing us what we always hoped it would.

Brandon: Yeah. That maybe the, the thing that we're living. For isn't the thing that we really want to live for. Yeah. Yeah. And I think about those words and I think about Jesus promising us rest. Hmm. And that's, I mean, the, the rest of a fulfilled relationship with the creator of the universe. I mean Yeah, that's what we're looking for.