

Body Building - Part Six
“Caught Breaking Covenant” – Dealing with Trust
Pastor Dale Campfield - June 12th, 2011

Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Premise of Series: To Build up the Body of Christ in Order to Make a Kingdom IMPACT.

Theme Verses: Eph. 4:11-16

Key verse 12

"Prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Question: Why is this important?

Answer: Because the return of Christ is coming soon, and we, as the body of Christ, must do everything we can to make as great of an IMPACT for the Kingdom of God in the hearts of the people in the path of our life that we can. (Show our path to Discipleship here)

Series Overview: Here is what we will be dealing with during this series...

Part 1 – “Caught by God”...	...Dealing with Intimacy
Part 2 – “Caught Red Handed”...	...Dealing with Sin
Part 3 – “Caught Empty Handed”...	...Dealing with Obedience
Part 4 – “Caught Giving Honor”...	...Dealing with Honor
Part 5 – “Caught Loose Lipped”...	...Dealing with Strife
Part 6 – “Caught Breaking Covenant”	...Dealing with Trust
Part 7 – “Caught Silent Lipped”...	...Dealing with Worship

Let’s continue.....

Part 6 – “Caught Breaking Covenant”... ...Dealing with Trust

There are many covenants that we have in life. Marriage covenants. Family covenants. Social covenants. Relational covenants. All of these covenants are a promise that we have with another person.

The most famous of all is the Marriage covenant. It's a promise between a man and a woman along with God that we will hold dear for the rest of our lives.

What happens when these covenants, promises are broken? When the trust with those we love the most is broken; then what? When we've been caught breaking covenant, caught breaking a promise, then what? That's what we're going to deal with today. We're going to looking at repairing the breach, repairing the trust that has been broken.

When you narrow life down, you will find that life is really all about relationships. Life is about your relationship with God and your relationship with man. You cannot make it through life without relationships. As much as you may try, you cannot live life without having a relationship with someone. Even if you were to live as a hermit, you would still have to have a relationship with those with whom you do business. You cannot avoid having relationships.

Trust must be built before a relationship can be established. For example, God built His relationship with mankind by creating a great world in which man could live. He then sent His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to help build that trust. To continue to establish trust, Jesus died on the cross, was buried and rose again so that man could have a relationship with Him. Jesus did all of this to build enough trust so that we would be willing to have a relationship with Him.

When you think about the marriage relationship, it is all about trust. Before you were willing to give your heart to your spouse, you dated each other. With each date you were building trust with the one whom you wanted to marry. With every gift, you were building trust with the one whom you wanted to marry. With every conversation and love letter, you were building trust with the one whom you wanted to marry. Finally, when you had enough trust built up, you either asked your spouse to marry you or accepted their proposal. Before you went into the marriage relationship, you built up a bank of trust with each other.

For a parent-child relationship to work, there must be trust. Every action that the parent or child does is building trust in that relationship. The parent built trust in the heart of the child from their infancy when they fed them, changed their diapers, comforted them when they cried, rocked them to sleep and played with them. Every action that the parent performed was building trust in the heart of the child. That is why when children are young it is not hard for them to have a relationship with their parents because there was a bank of trust built from the time they were born.

No matter what the relationship is, there must be trust in order for that relationship to work. A good business relationship must be built upon trust. A good pastor/church member relationship must be built upon trust. A good teacher/pupil relationship must be built upon trust. A good coach/player relationship must be built upon trust. Trust is the key ingredient to having a good relationship.

However, in every relationship there is risk. The risk comes when you place your trust in a person. Sadly, because every relationship involves sinful humans that means there will be times when trust is broken. Relationships are broken when trust is broken. When a spouse is unfaithful, they break their trust. When a child makes a silly mistake or decision, they break their trust with their parents. When a parent makes a silly mistake or decision, they break their trust with their child. Whatever the relationship is, when trust is broken the relationship is broken.

What to Do When the Covenant of Trust is Broken - Rebuilding Trust

QUESTION: What does trusting someone signify?

Trust, in a practical sense, means that you place confidence in someone to be honest with you, faithful to you, keep promises, vows and confidences and not abandon you.

Quote: "Most families would be healthier and happier if their members treated one another with the respect they would give to a perfect stranger."

Quote: Trust cannot long stay on a one-way street. It must run both ways.

Illus: Man/Wife/Harmonica

A young man was sent to Spain by his company to work in a new plant. He accepted because it would enable him to earn enough to marry his long-time girlfriend. Their plan was to pool their resources and put a down payment on a house when he returned. As the lonely weeks went by, she began expressing doubts that he was being true to her. After all, she reasoned, Spain is populated by beautiful women. The young man declared that he was paying absolutely no attention to the local girls. "I admit," he wrote, "that sometimes I'm tempted. But I fight it. I'm keeping myself for you."

In the next mail, the young man received a package. It contained a note and a harmonica. "I'm sending this to you," his girlfriend wrote, "so you can have something to take your mind off those girls." The young man wrote back that he was practicing on the harmonica every night and thinking only of her.

When the young man returned home to the states his girl was waiting at the airport. As he rushed forward to embrace her, she held up a restraining hand and said sternly, "Hold on there. First I want to hear you play that harmonica!"

She didn't quite trust him, did she?

Trust is a very important issue. Without it, many things in our society either wouldn't work or would be severely hampered. You depend upon trust every day of your life.

This message is about trust, rebuilding the trust that has been broken; the covenants that have been broken and I have five things to say about it. I hope before I am finished, you are challenged to see the importance of building and preserving trust in your life and covenants with others and to make every effort to be a trustworthy person.

Things to Remember when Rebuilding Trust

[When Rebuilding Trust – Remember...](#)

1. Trust is Essential to Life and Relationships.

When you need to have your car repaired, when you are going to have surgery, when you take a check from someone, you usually make some effort to be sure you're dealing with someone you can trust.

When you are going to take a trip across the country, when your teenage daughter is picked up for a date by a young man, when you sit down in a restaurant for a meal hoping you won't get food poisoning, you are *trusting* either *someone* or *something*.

When you bare your soul before another Christian, when you pass through an intersection while driving (hoping someone doesn't hit you), when you as a husband or wife leave your mate to go on a trip, you are trusting someone.

We *trust* people dozens of times every day without even thinking about it. Can you imagine what life would be like if suddenly you could trust *no one*?

Quote: “Trust is a bit like the air we breathe, we take it for granted until, for some reason, it becomes fouled. Then we are *forced* to pay attention.”

The Bible mentions the concept of trust *hundreds* of times within its pages. Hundreds more times though it isn't mentioned, it is assumed. While I could give you a list of those passages, I'll let our text suffice this morning so we can get right to work making some important points about this matter of trust.

Chuck Colson, the former Watergate break-in conspirator who was converted to evangelical Christianity in prison and speaks out for modern evangelicals today writes: "In our zeal to accommodate our so-called enlightened and tolerant age, we have lost the ideal of public virtue [and trust]. I am reminded of Samuel Johnson, who, upon learning that one of his dinner guests believed morality was merely a sham, said to his butler, 'Well, if he really believes that there is no distinction between virtue and vice, let us count the spoons before he leaves.' Colson continues, "Today there aren't any spoons left to count. Look at Washington, Wall Street, academia, sports, the ministry--all the spoons are gone because we can no longer distinguish between virtue and vice... Unless we learn how to live [with integrity], we are doomed."⁽¹⁾ Integrity is an issue of trust.

There was a time in this country when about the only people you had to worry about were the crooks that were easy to spot. Today, many are not really sure if they can even trust their *friends*. Someone has said, "Suspicion enters by the door through which trust exits." It surely seems that suspicion is the rule of our day!

Back in the days of Jeremiah, just before the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians, Jeremiah lamented the condition of his people and the fact that you couldn't trust *anyone*.
"Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!" "... they bend their tongue like their bow; lies and not truth prevail in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know [God]. Let everyone be on guard against his neighbor, and do not trust any brother; because every brother

deals craftily, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. And everyone deceives his neighbor, and does not speak the truth, they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity." [Jer. 9:1-3]

Less than 50 years after those words were spoken, Judah was overrun by the Babylonian war machine as a judgment of God.

Folks, a friendship or a family or a church or a nation of suspicious or cynical people where there is no trust is on the path to destruction. Trust is essential to life and relationships.

When Rebuilding Trust – Remember...

2. Trust is an Earned Commodity.

I suppose there are a few exceptions to that, but not very many. A young woman, raised in a good family where trust was assumed, might be inclined to hand unearned trust to the first young man who shows an interest in her. But once she gets burned, she's much slower to trust until she *knows* such a person is worthy of it. In other words, her trust must be *earned*.

Trust is an issue between parents and teenagers. Teens say, "Why don't you trust me?" Probably because trust hasn't been earned.

Quote: "Trust isn't a birthright! It's an *earned* right!"

If you are sixteen years old and have never gotten behind the wheel of a car, don't expect me to hand you my keys. First, you have to prove you can be trusted, in this case, that either you can drive or you're willing to take some instruction, *and* I want to know if you are reckless or stupid about responsibility when you're on your own.

This issue of *earned* trust is even more clearly necessary if you have committed a *breach of trust*. If, after I handed you the keys, you went out and drove so recklessly that you destroyed my car, you won't get the keys again because I don't trust you. As a matter of fact, it will be even harder to gain my trust once you've messed things up! Trust is earned.

A man can become an elder in the church only after he has *proven* that he meets the qualifications and can manage his own household.

Before a man can become a deacon, he must first be *tested* according to 1 Timothy 3:10. I realize you may think I'm dwelling too much on the obvious here, but this issue of trust being an earned thing is essential to our understanding. Stick with me and I'll show you why.

When Rebuilding Trust – Remember...

3. Trust Is Built On Individual Seeds of Faithfulness.

Perhaps you are a teenager who would like to earn your parents' trust. (Wouldn't it be great to have more freedom to be able to do things, knowing you're parents trusted you?)

Or, let's take another case. Perhaps, due to things that have happened in your marriage, there is suspicion between you and your mate. Or, perhaps you would like to try to qualify for one of the offices in the church and you realize that trust is a big issue.

I have said trust is earned... What can you do to earn trust? Here are some pointers we can take from our text. If you plant these seeds of faithfulness, it will go a long way to rebuilding the trust that has been broken.

SEEDS OF FAITHFULNESS

A. Be attentive to little things.

Luke 16:10

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

Guys, I think that is why our wives appreciate us more when we remember and do the *little* things for them. Everyone does the big things (birthdays, anniversaries), yet in spite of that, they cannot be trusted. It takes an extra effort to pay attention to the little things. Seeing to the little things says to your wife, "I really love you and you can count on me."

There is a similarity between building trust and building muscles. If you want to build your muscles up you sign up for a weight training program and start working out. But you don't try to pick up the biggest, heaviest weight you can find right off! Rather, you start with something small and work up.

Trust is the same way. If you want to earn someone's trust, don't sit around waiting for some big issue to come along, all the while ignoring the little everyday issues. Get to work on the little things!

Concentrate on telling the truth *every time* you speak. Those "little white lies" or "convenience lies" that so many people tell without thinking about - make it your business to clean them up. When one pops out, go back and admit it and tell the truth.

That 35 mile per hour zone you take every morning at 50 - make yourself slow down and go the speed limit - not just when you're watching for the cops, but when no one is watching!

When you tell somebody you'll be someplace and circumstances make it inconvenient to carry through, honor your word and show up anyway or at least call if you can't be there.

If someone hands you an extra dollar in change in the checkout stand, hand it back to them. You don't have to make a big deal of it or expect some kind of medal. Just hand it back and say, "Oops, you gave me too much change."

When you parents make a commitment to your children to be somewhere, keep your word and be there!

When you teens tell your folks where you and your friends are going to be on Friday night, be sure you're there! If your plans change, give them a call and let them know. If you can't get them on the phone, *come home*.

Christians, pay your bills on time. Let your word be your bond. Speak truth even if it hurts.

Quote: "If you are faithful remembering these little things, the "muscle" of trust will grow."

When a big test comes, you'll be accustomed to doing the right thing and it will be much easier to resist doing wrong. Better than that, though, those whom you wish would trust you will see your diligence and begin to put faith in you. God, too, will put faith in you, and one day, He will say to you what he said to the faithful stewards in **Matt 25:21**, "*Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master*"

If you want to earn trust, *be attentive to small things*.

B. Be faithful with other's things.

Luke 16:12

"And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?"

My father, Jerral Campfield, is a real "stickler" with this principle, and I'm glad of it. His philosophy is...

Quote: "If you borrow something from someone, always take it back in as good or better shape than it was in when you took it."

God will honor you when you do these things! *He* is the one you need to impress, anyway. Promotion comes from Him! Be faithful with other's things.

C. Be faithful when no one is watching.

Eph. 5:13-15

"Everything exposed by the light becomes visible... Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise."

I like that old saying that goes...

Quote: "What you are when no one is watching is what you are."

That little sentence has rescued me from temptation more times than I'm anxious to admit! What do you and I do when someone suddenly points a camera at us? Often we hold up our hand and say, "Wait a minute!" Then maybe we comb our hair or strike a pose showing our best side. A good photographer, though, who is interested in taking realistic, *interesting* photos, always tries to snap his pictures when his subject is unaware. He'll put on his telephoto lens and get you from a distance when you think no one is watching.

Those of you old enough to remember the big issues of LIFE MAGAZINE, why was that magazine so popular? If you'll remember, it was all pictures, most of them unposed. Or, for you younger people, why is it so interesting to pick up an issue of PEOPLE MAGAZINE in the doctor's office lobby and flip through it? Isn't it because you get to see certain celebrities *as they really are*, in real-life photos rather than those posed for the camera?

What you are when no one is looking, when you are unaware that someone is taking your picture or studying your actions, is what you really are. By looking at that we learn if we can really trust you. If you're trustworthy there, it's a piece of cake to be faithful in the limelight!

Character and integrity, the two things trust is made of, are hammered out on a three headed anvil: *Attentiveness to small things, faithfulness with other's things, and consistency when no one is watching.*

When Rebuilding Trust – Remember...

4. Trust Carelessly Lost Is Difficult and Sometimes Impossible To Regain.

Quote: "Burn me once, shame on you! Burn me twice, shame on me!"

Have you ever heard that saying? Think about what it means... It is much harder to earn someone's trust when they've been burned. In some cases, a level of trust that has been lost through carelessness can *never* be regained.

I think of King David of Israel, the "*man after God's own heart.*" His faithfulness to God and his nation was a model to follow for the first 50 years of his life. Because of his integrity, the nation of Israel gained its fullest splendor during those years. God blessed the Israel because of David. But then came the sin with Bathsheba. Things changed. Someone has said that the influence of David's life resembles the pitch of a roof. It goes steadily up-up-up until it hits the peak, then it drops off sharply on the other side. The peak in this case was the serious breach of trust David made in the incident with Bathsheba and her husband.

Trust carelessly lost is often difficult to regain. Sometimes it is impossible! No, it's not that a man cannot be forgiven. There is *always* forgiveness when the sin is confessed and repented of. But there is still the issue of trust and trust is a different thing than forgiveness. Forgiveness is

granted on the basis of God's mercy and Christ's sacrifice. It is *always* granted freely. Trust, on the other hand, as we have already established, must be *earned*.

Here are some observations we can make:

- a. Forgiveness isn't trust! As a Christian, we can demand and expect forgiveness. But trust must be earned by the one who broke it. To *demand* to be trusted when little or no effort has been made to rebuild trust is completely inappropriate.
- b. Both parties in a case like this have their part to do. If either fails, the relationship is doomed.
- c. It takes time to rebuild trust. Only those who are deadly serious about doing it for the long haul will ever succeed.
- d. It takes extra effort to rebuild trust that has been lost. The first building was probably put up relatively quickly. Not so the second. Before the new building is built, the builder will learn to appreciate every brick in it!

5. It Is Far Easier To Preserve The Trust You Have Gained Than To Have To Rebuild It After It Is Destroyed.

Yes, sometimes trust can be rebuilt. Parents can trust their children after trust has been broken. A betrayed marriage can survive, but the process of rebuilding is usually a long, arduous thing, requiring constant effort. And you never come back to the same spot from which you departed.

Quote: The more important your role, the greater your responsibility to others, the more deadly a breach of trust will be.

This morning I call you to remember the sacred trusts of your life. As a husband. As a wife. As a father. As a mother. As a teenaged young person. As a church leader. As a teacher. As a citizen. As a Christian. People are counting on you! They trust you! Don't let them down! If you've broken a covenant with someone, a broken promise, now is the time to begin to rebuild that trust.

And as you do.... You wait, you watch, you'll see!