

Southern Asia Division 8

Stewardship Certification *Handout*



Trust: An Accelerator to Faithfulness

Aim

- To explain the importance of trust.
- To present ways of building trust

Introduction

Our call to faithful stewardship is grounded on theological truths. What is the relationship between a trustworthy atmosphere and members giving within a local church? If this relationship exists, how can we build trust in the local church?

Definition: Trust is the willingness to act based on another individual's actions and/or words.

Part 1: The Importance of Trust

Trust is essential for all spheres of life.

Business World

You can have all the facts and figures, all the supporting evidence, all the endorsement that you want, but if you don't command _____, you won't get anywhere."

Naill Fitzgerald, Former Chairman, Unilever

_____ and technology are important, but adding trust is the issue of the decade.

Tom Peters, Business Author

I look for three things in hiring people. The first is personal _____, the second is intelligence, and the third is a high energy level. But, if you don't have the first, the other two will kill you.

Warren Buffett, CEO, Berkshire Hathaway

Religious Context

Paul writes about his efforts to be trustworthy while performing his pastoral ministry.

Paul chose to avoid some actions for him not to lose trust (2 Cor 4: 1-2):

- Renounced Secret
- Shameful ways
- _____
- Distort the Word
- Commend ourselves

E. G. White is adamant about the necessity of being trustworthy for those involved in ministry:

Those in responsible places are to act in such a way that the people will have firm confidence in them. These men should not be afraid to open to the light of day everything in the management of

the work.

E. G. White, MR, Vol 13, 198

Management of Financial Resources

Apostle Paul invested in building trust pertaining to the management of financial resources (1 Cor 16:1-4)

He did not only tell members about their _____ responsibility of giving but he managed their gifts as a _____ trust.

In 2 Corinthians 8: 19-21, Paul is explicit about his rule of conduct for the management of finances.

- Avoid criticism.
- _____ to God.
- _____ to men.

The relationship between trust and degree of support to an organization

“[A] significant increase in the public _____, accountability, and institutionalized _____ of the many religious and charitable causes and organizations to which American Christians might consider giving money would have the real effect over time of considerably increasing the amount of money they give.”

C. Smith and M. Emerson, Passing the Plate: Why American Christians do not give out more money, p. 143.

E.G White testifies about the effect of mistrust:

And with the experience they have had, in the loss from the treasury of hundreds of pounds, why should they not be afraid to repose confidence in men who so manage as to draw from the treasury, and leave them minus the means they so greatly need to sustain the work of God for this time?-- Letter 36, 1897.

Where trust is _____ the inclination to _____ is weaken.

Illustration: We need a stewardship revival week!

Trust does make a difference.

- “When trust goes up, speed will also go up and cost will go down.”
- “When trust goes down, speed will go down and costs will go up.”

Stephen M. R. Covey, *The Speed of Trust: The One Thing That Changes Everything*

Group Activity

How do we reconcile the idea of the importance of trust with our message about giving unconditionally?

E. G. White adopts a well-balanced position regarding the relationship between trust and faithfulness:

Some have been dissatisfied, and have said, "I will not longer pay my tithe; for I have no confidence in the way things are managed at the heart of the work." But will you rob God because you think the management of the work is not right? Make your complaint, plainly and openly, in the right spirit, to the proper ones. Send in your petitions for things to be adjusted and set in order; but do not withdraw from the work of God, and prove unfaithful, because others are not doing right.—9T 249.

The _____ of trust is not an _____ justification for unfaithfulness

Part II: Building and Losing Trust

Being trustworthy is not _____, it is the result of a process.

Building trust takes time and careful attention. It can be lost instantly through a single action.
L. Cooper, former Vice President GC

Trust has two major components: _____ (which includes integrity) and _____.

The quickest way to decrease trust is to violate a behavior of character. The quickest way to build trust is to demonstrate a behavior of competence.
Stephen M. R. Covey

The two components of trust can be divided into the four cores of credibility:

- Character**
- _____
 - Good Intentions for others
- Competence**
- _____
 - Delivering Results

Major Elements of Integrity	Factors affecting perception of Integrity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honesty • Humility • Congruency • Courage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make and Keep Commitments to Yourself and Others. • Stand for Something • Be Opened

Major Elements Good Intention	Factors affecting perception of Good Intention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motives • Agenda • Behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine and Refine Your Motives • Declare your Intent • Choose Abundance

Major Elements Capabilities	Factors affecting perception of Capabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talents • Attitude • Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run with your strength. • Keep yourself relevant. • Know where you are going

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge • Style 	
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Major Elements of Results	Factors affecting perception of Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track record • Performance • Getting the right thing done • Accomplish what we promise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take responsibility for results • Expect to win • Be a good finisher

Galford and Drapeau in the book, *The Trusted Leader*, provide an interesting insight about the construction of Trustworthiness. It is presented in “The Equation of Trust”.

$$\text{Trustworthiness} = \frac{C + R + I}{S}$$

C = Credibility; R = Reliability; I = Intimacy; S = Self-orientation

Group Activity

List situations, in the local church, that could cause a loss of trust in the leadership and in the church.

Two building blocks of Trust: _____ and _____

- Accountability implies that people have the right to know. Decision makers are answerable for their actions.
- Transparency implies that people have the right to see. Decision makers need to make information available.

Four actions contribute to transparency and accountability:

- To function with a consented annual budget
- To have an internal control system that is communicated and practiced.
- Regular communication about church finances are provided to members.
- The perception that the leadership is committed to the mission

Distrust is like a cancer. An attitude of distrust in a particular unit of church organization can quickly metabolize into a generalized distrust of the whole organization.

Conclusion

Trust requires:

- _____ 2 Cor. 6: 3
- _____ 2 Cor. 1:12

Read More: D. Pearman, Transparency and accountability in financial stewardship of the local church, <https://stewardship.adventist.org/transparency-and-accountability-in-financial-stewardship-of-the-local-church>