

Proverbs 3:5-6

Series: So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore  
Message 4: "The Speed of Trust"

03 - 29 - 09

What Trust Is

In his book, *The Speed of Trust*, what does Stephen M. R. Covey mean by the following formulas:

↓ Trust = ↓ Speed + ↑ Cost

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What is *trust*?

When Trust is Lacking

Trust will always inherently include what?

Trust involves belief that God will be \_\_\_\_\_ to us.

Trust involves belief that God will be \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

Explain.

The Biblical Trust Movement

The Biblical movement of trust is a movement away from trust in \_\_\_\_\_ toward trust in \_\_\_\_\_.

One way to measure this growth in our lives is to ask ourselves whether our trust/security in life is *circumstantial* or *relational*. Explain.

What does Covey say are the two primary principles that drive trust?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

But if anyone of us would readily admit that God embodies these attributes so fully, then why do we still find it so hard to trust him wholly?

*"I do not seek, O Lord, to penetrate Thy depths.  
I by no means think my intellect equal to Thee:  
but I long to understand in some degree Thy truth,  
which my heart believes and loves.  
For I do not seek to understand that I may believe,  
but I believe, that I may understand."*

- Anselm -

## **So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore Small Group Discussion Questions: Week 3: Chapters 7-8**

### **Mixer:**

- 1) Go around the group and share your “scaries.” A *scary* is a story of how you got one of the scars on your body.
- 2) Everyone share with the group what the best book you ever read was (and why).

### **Chapter 7:**

- 1) Someone read out loud the last paragraph on p. 78 — the first paragraph on p. 79. Now read Romans 8:1-4. How would you describe the cross from God's eyes? Was it more about *justice* or more *love*?
- 2) What would be different in your life if you could live in the security of God's love rather than your immediate circumstances?
- 3) In chapter 7, Jake is watching the big local football game. Someone pick up the story reading out loud from the third last paragraph on p. 81—the first couple paragraphs on p. 82. What *game* is John talking about? How do we do this too?
- 4) On p. 80, Jake gets excited about the potential of starting a house church. But how is his desire to do this really not going to help him?
- 5) When Jake hears the real story about the rival “sellout” quarterback, he can hardly believe it. Someone share a story about a person you once prejudged but then got to know.
- 6) People can cheer for a football team like the Minnesota Vikings (although there are some *crazy* people too who would rather choose green and gold). With essentially only a football team in common, they can fill a stadium with 70,000 others and all find a common purpose and excitement for the night. Why do we do this? Why do we associate ourselves with other sports fans, NASCAR fans, rod & gun club members, or scrapbooking groups? What do these things tell us about how God created us and what we're looking for in life?
- 7) Why are you here at Bridge?

### **Chapter 8:**

- 1) At the bottom of p. 91, Jake is fuming because Jim (his old pastor) is “getting away” with his sins. John suggests that “No one gets away with it, Jake. He's paying for his failures in ways you can never imagine.” Do you agree with John's conclusion? Why or why not?
- 2) How is sin its own punishment? Explain.
- 3) What does accepting this belief have to do with trust?
- 4) Is there ever a time to expose someone else's sin? When?
- 5) On p. 94, John says, “Jake, you've learned to measure stability by your circumstances and by your ability to see how things will work out months in advance.” How do *you* measure stability, security in life?
- 6) Jake confides in John that their new house church isn't going as well as he hoped. People aren't committed. Someone read John's reply on p. 97, starting about the middle of the page at “If it needs commitment . . .” (read through the end of the page). Is John's view of commitment in church life overly idealistic? Why or why not?

### **Closing Prayer:**

This morning in the message we talked a lot about trusting God and how that plays out in our lives. Spend some time sharing with one another where you don't feel you *really* trust God. Then, spend some time praying for each other to grow in trust.