

## Trustworthiness

*Jesus said, "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. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"*

Luke 16:10-12

Wherever you find a person of proven character you find a person who can be trusted. Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike." Character determines our choices and the development of strong character, people who hold to biblical values, creates a culture of trust. More people are looking deep into their souls and questioning how they can contribute to the body of Christ. The church is not man's idea. It's God's. He has placed Jesus over the church and He plans a great reunion with her in the end of times. But how do we treat the church in our day? Are we faithful stewards of what the Lord has given us?

Being trustworthy is important to Jesus. He bases the amount of responsibility (property) that he gives us based on how we are doing with what he has entrusted to us. He also bases the amount of spiritual wealth (the riches of the Kingdom) that will be given to us based on how we handle worldly wealth and responsibility.

Here are three ways to develop in the character of trustworthiness. The first is to develop in integrity. Integrity is simply keeping the promises that you have made to yourself and others. It is doing as Jesus once said, making your yes, yes and your no, no. Can you trust yourself and can others trust you when you say you will do something? Will you get it done in a timely manner and will you do it to the best of your ability?

The second thing that develops trust is making good judgments. Using wisdom and having good discerning qualities creates godly judgment. Worldly judgment, which we are warned against, sizes things up based on prejudice and looking only on the surface of things. Spiritual judgment comes from heaven and gives us the ability to look beyond our own experience or preconceived ideas into the truth and the heart of a matter. We are called to be wise and to make sober judgments. It's all though scripture. Can we be trusted with our opinions?

The third aspect of trustworthy character is that of competence. How do you do what you do? Are you proactive, productive (producing results) and proficient with what you do. When you are given a project do you become knowledgeable about what it is that you are doing so that you can do it well? Believe it or not, your attitude toward what you are doing plays a big roll in how you will do it. The question is, can you be entrusted with something and those who gave it to you can rest assured that it will be done well?

Trust is the key to all relationships and the glue of all organizations. Let's cement our bricks together with the fruit that comes from trustworthiness. Let's empower ourselves for increase by being trustworthy with what He has given us.