

Sermon Topic: Building a Culture of Trust by Ps David Ho  
 Sermon Text: 1 Tim 3:1-7

- The Bible has many exhortations to trust in God but many warnings against putting our trust in men above God.
- Yet, we are called to be trustworthy because God is trustworthy and we are to emulate His character.
- The criteria of leadership given in 1 Tim 3:1-7 focuses on a person’s character, not a person’s competencies

1Tim 3:1-7 (NIV)

<b>“Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task” (v1)</b>	The passage sets out what constitutes trustworthiness. Though it is written for those considering leadership, it is equally applicable to non-leaders as well.
<b>“Now the overseer is to be above reproach” (v2)</b>	Our behaviour should not give others any grounds for accusation
<b>“faithful to his wife” (v2)</b>	Others cannot expect faithfulness from one who does not faithfully keep one of the most important commitments of life
<b>“temperate”(v2) “self-controlled”(v2)</b>	Mastering our thinking, emotions or actions and not being extreme/unpredictable/volatile in behaviour or expression. Our motives may be good, but our actions are what other people see
<b>“respectable”(v2)</b>	Carrying ourselves in a way that others would want to look up to
<b>“hospitable”(v2)</b>	Being warm, approachable, generous and helpful. Someone others can call on for help.
<b>“able to teach”(v2)</b>	Not about competency, but being wise and a good role model to others
<b>“Not given to drunkenness”(v3)</b>	Similar to being self-controlled and overcoming addictions

<p><b>“Not violent but gentle”(v3)</b></p>	<p>Being kind, considerate, peaceable and patient and not combative, blunt or hurtful</p>
<p><b>“Not quarrelsome”(v3)</b></p>	<p>Learn to be a good listener and avoid being argumentative, opinionated.</p>
<p><b>“Not a lover of money”(v3)</b></p>	<p>Not being greedy, covetous</p>
<p><b>“He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect” (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) (v4-5)</b></p>	<p>The pursuit of ministry should not be done at the expense of the family or one’s duties of being a parent/spouse.</p> <p>How we conduct ourselves in the private space of our home can be the most indicative of our character</p>
<p><b>“He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil” (v6)</b></p>	<p>Issue of timing, not character</p>
<p><b>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap” (v7)</b></p>	<p>In the context of the passage, Christians faced hostility. Yet Paul advocates believers live a congruent life in keeping with their faith to win over those who persecute them</p>

## 5 key ways to building a culture of trust

### 1) Character

- Fear of God: People who fear God can be trusted (Psalm 128:1, 16:6)

### 2) Congruence

- Private life must be congruent to your public persona (1 Sam 16:7)
- Honour your words before God and before man (Ecc 5:2)
  - ➔ Words should be backed by actions. Actions should be aligned to your motives
- Say what you mean and mean what you say (Matt 5:37)

### 3) Commitment

- Fulfil your vows (Ecc 5:4-6) -
  - ➔ Examples: Wedding Vows, Church leaders & Congregation, Parents at Child's baptism. A daily, not a one-off commitment

### 4) Communication

- Mis-Communication (Eph 4:25)
  - ➔ Assumption (We shoot the other person when we say "you should" ...)
  - ➔ Prejudice
  - ➔ Suspicion
  - ➔ Fear (often caused by Assumptions, Prejudice, Suspicion)
- Bad Communication (Eph 4:15)
  - ➔ Criticism (attacks the person) but complaints address the issue, not the person
  - ➔ Contempt (Eg. expressed through sarcasm)
  - ➔ Defensiveness (occurs when pre-empting comes before listening)
  - ➔ Third Party (clarify with the person directly, not through a third party who may then carry Vicarious Anger)

➔ Vicarious Anger

- Non-Communication

➔ Stonewalling (cold war)

➔ Shutdown and withdrawal (non-participation)

5) Contrition (Psalm 51)

- No one is perfect (v5-6) Acknowledge we have fallen short
- Be humble enough to admit our wrong (v3-4)
- Apologize (Psalm 32:5) & the other side should forgive (Psalm 32:3)
- Take responsibility to make right (Luke 19:8)

**We need to replenish our trust bank and earn people's trust. It is a process of growth.**

**Reflection Question**

1. On a scale of 1 – 10, (1 being poor and 10 being very good) where am I in the above points?

2. What practical steps can I take to build up my Trust Bank Account?