

FEARLESS TRUST

Fearless - Part 1

KEN RITZ * FEBRUARY 14, 2016 * NEW LIFE VINEYARD CHURCH

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

Psalm 56:3

Two things that make it hard for you to trust:

- what you see
- who you are

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1. Love gives the other person the benefit of the doubt.
2. Love looks for the most generous explanation for the other person's behavior.
3. Love chooses trust over suspicion.

"The Gap": The difference between what you expected from them, and what you actually experienced; unmet expectations.

_____ what goes in the gap.

- You can fill the gap with fear, anger, and bitterness, or (as 1 Corinthians instructs),
- You can always look for an opportunity to believe the best, rather than assume the worst.

We all love acceptance, but suspicion communicates rejection.

When you assume the worst, you are closing down the relationship.

When you cannot choose to trust, you must choose to _____.

"If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

Matt 18:15-17

Five Rules For Fearless Relationships

1. When there's a gap between what I expected and what I experienced, I'm going to believe the best.
2. When other people assume the worst about you, I will come to your defense.
3. If what I experience begins to erode my trust, I'll come directly to you.
4. When I'm convinced I will not be able to deliver on a promise, I'll tell you ahead of time.
5. When you confront me about the gaps I have created, I will tell you the truth.

**All scriptures from NIV unless otherwise noted*