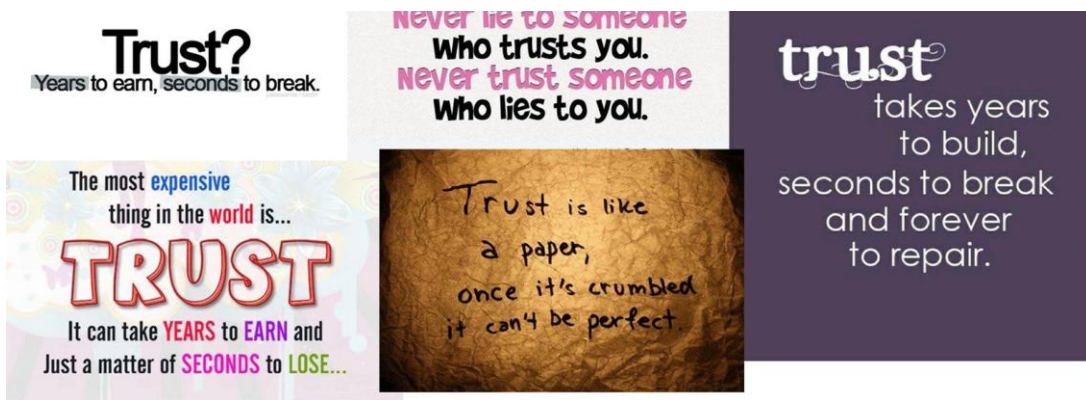




### *Trust... some of the whats, whos, and why's? :)*

Trust is said to be the most valuable thing we have here on earth. You may ask why, and that would be a fair question. So, let's look at it.

Trust - what is it? It's invisible. It's fragile. Sometimes you aren't even sure it's there... until it's gone. So, what is it made of? Simply put, it's an investment of hope and a promise of care in response to the same from another person you respect. That sounds pretty light doesn't it? But, that's trust - it's the ability for a person to believe, respect, and feel safe (to some aspect) around a person, according to what level of friendship is agreed to - fan/supporter, acquaintance, friendly stranger, close friend, core friend, adopted family, or loving blood-family. As you can see, there are many different levels of trust - as many as there are levels of relationships - something that's not seemingly taught by anyone of prominence these days...

Moving on. :) Trust is made between a guy and lady in Biblical marriage, where each observes and talks with that person until they understand them, how they communicate, and at some level, their fears, concerns, hopes, and dreams. Understanding the other person is a very important part of the communication. Just because we can hear the words, doesn't mean we understand how they are said, or if something is being implied that is not able to be said, or would be

unwise to be said. (This analysis isn't even covering how people who intentionally deceive communicate - just honest people).

So, for a marriage - they pledge themselves for life to care for, understand, and work together as a team. It's a life-long covenant. And it's built on - you guessed it. Trust. Trust is built on conversation at a time, one observation of the other person at a time. And over time, it becomes more stable - because the trust is strong, because the partnership through storms, trials, etc is strong. God is the only One who can hold a marriage together like that. Sin always wants to tear that apart. And dishonesty about sin is the second quickest thing that destroys trust. But there are other things that destroy trust too. One is fear. The other is jealousy/envy. A person's past can bring scares and worries into the friendship to relationship to marriage, that can sometimes cloud one side or the other. Old fears can be (accidentally) attributed from a past thing to something or someone in real-time. Patience and prayer through those is much needed. And, so is the need for both husband and wife to stay away from and out of sins... that usually takes time, and a partnership through it.

One of the quickest ways a husband can lose his wife's trust is letting his heart wander to another woman to lust and then commit sexual adultery with her. The second is his addiction to pornography. The third is abuse. The fourth is many other addictions that draw his heart away from her. Sexual adultery against a wife is one of two things that God's Word says actually breaks the marriage covenant. A husband must watch out for anything that tries to distract his heart from leading his wife in purity and in more ministry work for Jesus Christ. And a husband also has to always set the pace of staying in God's Word - the rest of the family follows his leadership (good or bad) the most.

One of the quickest ways a wife can lose her husband's trust is letting her heart wander to another guy (in person, on TV, in a book, or in music). Fantasy is often a lady's worst enemies. Learning how to balance her emotions with facts and

Biblical logic and definitions is one of her most solid foundations. It takes immersing herself in the Word to find that.

One of the hardest things for any human to do is say “I’m sorry, I was wrong. Here’s what I see I did. And here’s what I need to change or do differently next time”. Second hardest is to forgive. Here, God is the only One who can play referee and He’s also the only One who can hold a marriage together, as long as they are both growing in seeking and serving Jesus with all their hearts, and leaving sin behind that separates each from the other, and each/both from God.

All other types of relationships are less than this. But they too take trust. They have to be held in boundaries fitting to the relationship.

Keeping Trust is easy. Losing trust is even easier. Regaining trust is one of the hardest things to do. Proverbs 18 says it this way: “ A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle. ” (Proverbs 18:19). Once lost, trust can be re-earned, but that takes a lot of time.

This study will likely get longer as I continue to study God’s Word and work on Biblical study projects such as the “Boundaries Study” and the “Jacob & Rachel Study”. But let me leave you with a final challenge, and then some passages for you to study in your own time as your homework.

Husbands: Fight for your marriage. You are the head of the house, and you are the first person who God will hold accountable, and you are also the one who will take the brunt of the good or bad judgment for how you run or let your house be run. As best as you can: fight for your marriage - in prayer, purity of walk, and talking through things with your wife.

Wives: Fight for your marriage. You don’t have to be perfect - you just have to keep growing in caring, praying, serving, and teaching. Everything else will work out in time and prayer.

Single men and women - be very very slow and careful who you pick as your future wife/husband. It's a life-covenant. And if you handle it any way other than how God explains clearly in His Word, it will hurt both of you, for life. Guard your heart from the wrong ones, and ask God to move the ones He doesn't want in your lives - out of your lives. And ask God to get you ready for your future spouse and them ready for you, so you can serve Him as one, for life.

Friends - pray for your God-fearing friends. They so need it. All of them. Pray for those you've argued with. Pray for those who walked away. Pray for those who are near. Pray for those who work beside you. Pray for their purity. Pray for their love of the Word of God to grow. Pray for their marriage, and how God would open up doors for them to better serve God and grow. Pray for them as often as God brings them to mind and let God grow your prayer list. And also realize, those who seemed to have walked out forever - aren't always gone forever. Make sure your heart-door is never locked, even if they think it is.

If I can help with questions or if you'd just like to discuss this more, I welcome it heartily :)

Verses to study: When was the last time you worked word-for-word through 1st Corinthians 13? If it's been a while, go back and read it. Then read Galatians 5. Then read Galatians 6. Then read Matthew 13 and John 10. Those are my suggestions. Add to them as God leads you.

Let's keep growing in hunger and thirst for God's Word. Watching, Preaching, Praying, your growing bro, a growing servant/life-slave of Jesus, Steven