

## TRUST and OBEY

The implications of **The Love Patent** for horizontal trust:

### Transparency

We need to look at still another aspect of our expectations, this time having to do with Authority and trust. It is written that “... *Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.*”<sup>1</sup> Trust is an important word. We are a people who are heading for a transparency, perhaps best described in the Book of Revelation: “... *before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal...*”<sup>2</sup> In Chapter 17 the sea is interpreted to signify “... *peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.*”<sup>3</sup>

The sea representing the nations, is heaving, it is tossed about. In Ephesians, Paul puts it this way: “*Then you will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.*”<sup>4</sup> The sea before the throne is like a sea of glass. It is no longer tossing. It represents those who have been saved out of the heaving sea, the redeemed. They are those who are no longer tossed about, and they are those who have become clear as crystal.

### Wounded

ZEC 13:6 “*If someone asks him, ‘What are these wounds on your body?’ he will answer, ‘The wounds I was given in the house of my friends.’*”

Our present difficulty is with vulnerability in transparency. We have all had the experience of sharing our inner thoughts and feelings, only to experience betrayal and rejection as a result. In some sense, we see this in Matthew 7:6, “*Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, then turn and tear you to pieces.*” Having experienced this, we then become defensive and closed. By the time most Christians become leaders, they are very reluctant to share their innermost thoughts, struggles, and feelings. There is a crisis of trust. The temptation, at that point, is to go looking for others who can be trusted, but the search is in vain. Better to trust God, and walk in faithfulness with those he has placed in our lives, in the relationships that God has established.

The problem with trust is that it presupposes expectations. Trust means that expectations will not be violated. If there are no expectations, then trust ceases to be an issue. Jesus knew what was in a man - as a result he had no good expectations, nothing that could serve as a basis for trust. As a result, He did not trust himself to any man.

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<sup>1</sup> John 2:24, 25

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 4:6a

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 17:15b

<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 4:14

## Don't Trust Men

Where does this leave us? According to the Scripture, there is good reason to believe that we cannot be trusted: PSA 146:3 ***“Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save.”***

JER 9:4, 5 ***“Beware of your friends; do not trust your brothers. For every brother is a deceiver, and every friend a slanderer. Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning.”***

JER 9:6-8 ***“You live in the midst of deception; in their deceit they refuse to acknowledge me,” declares the Lord. Therefore this is what the Lord Almighty says: “See, I will refine and test them, for what else can I do because of the sin of my people? **Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks with deceit. With his mouth each speaks cordially to his neighbor, but in his heart he sets a trap for him.**”***

JER 9:9-12 ***“Should I not punish them for this?” declares the Lord. ‘Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this?’ I will weep and wail for the mountains and take up a lament concerning the desert pastures. They are desolate and untraveled, and the lowing of cattle is not heard. The birds of the air have fled and the animals are gone. ‘I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals; and I will lay waste the towns of Judah so no one can live there.’ What man is wise enough to understand this? Who has been instructed by the Lord and can explain it? Why has the land been ruined and laid waste like a desert that no one can cross?”***

JER 12:5-6-8 ***“If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan? **Your brothers, your own family--even they have betrayed you; they have raised a loud cry against you. Do not trust them, though they speak well of you.** ‘I will forsake my house, abandon my inheritance; I will give the one I love into the hands of her enemies. My inheritance has become to me like a lion in the forest. She roars at me; therefore I hate her.”***

MIC 7:1-2 ***“What misery is mine! **I am like one who gathers summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard; there is no cluster of grapes to eat, none of the early figs that I crave.** The godly have been swept from the land; **not one upright man remains. All men lie in wait to shed blood; each hunts his brother with a net.**”***

MIC 7:3, 4 ***“Both hands are skilled in doing evil; the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes, the powerful dictate what they desire--they all conspire together. The best of them is like a brier, the most upright worse than a thorn hedge. The day of your watchmen has come, the day God visits you. Now is the time of their confusion.”***

MIC 7:5-7 ***“Do not trust a neighbor; put no confidence in a friend. Even with her who lies in your embrace be careful of your words. For a son dishonors his father, a daughter rises up against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law--a man's enemies are the members of his own household. But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.”***

## In God We Trust

MIC 7:8, 9 “Do not gloat over me, my enemy! **Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.** Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.”

JOH 14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. **Trust in God; trust also in me.**”

ACT 14:23 “Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to **the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.**”

ROM 15:13 “**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**”

HEB 2:13 “And again, **‘I will put my trust in him.’** And again he says, ‘Here am I, and the children God has given me.’”

It is apparent from the above, that putting our trust in people, mere "mortals", is not only a highly risky business, but would seem to be an act of disobedience, as well.

In a very real sense this is another area that boils down to government. “... *The government is on His shoulder,*” all government. Jesus is in charge, and we must trust in him. When Peter said “*not me Lord, I'll never betray you,*” Jesus put no stock in what he said. He did not trust him. Are we better than Peter? Jesus is in control, and He alone is trustworthy.

There are many reasons why we cannot be trusted, not the least of which are to be found in the very roots of what it is to be mortal; “... frail, feeble desperate, incurable, sick, woeful.” To make it personal, my problem is that if I am hurt badly enough, I become offended. Because of human frailty, humans are to be loved, not trusted. If we are able to trust God, and love each other, we have some hope that God, who is faithful, by His Spirit, will show us who we are to be open with. **If we know each other** in this way, “...*after the Spirit, and not after the flesh...*” **then the Spirit will be in charge of the outcome. If, on the other hand, we know each other after the flesh, and put our trust in the flesh, “... arm of flesh will fail us.” and we are bound to be defeated in every relationship.**

By trusting God in everything, and in relationships in particular, we can and will look to Him for the relationships of our lives. God is the one who determines who we should walk with. Knowing this, that a given relationship is ours by the will of God, we will be able to be faithful in that relationship even when the relationship is painful. Again, **our call is to trust God and love each other.**

This is particularly true in relationships where there is a protective or authoritative dimension. As a husband, and father, for instance, I have a protective, enabling, and providing role for my wife and family. This is a role in which I often fail, in that sense, a role in which I can't be trusted.

To the degree that I have been trusted in this role by my wife and children, where they have had great expectations, my failures have led to great disappointments.

Their trust, over time has had to be adjusted away from me and directed toward God. By making this adjustment, rather than being shaken in the face of my failures, they are able to provide encouragement and strength when I need it most.

The same is true for me in relationship to them. If I am counting on God for the things that come from them, I am able to minister strength and encouragement to them at the points of their weakness. I have used myself as an example, but it is clear that the same can be said of any relationship that includes a dimension of authority, pastors and their flocks, for instance.

PRO 21:22 *“A wise man attacks the city of the mighty and pulls down **the stronghold in which they trust.**”*

II Corinthians 10:3-5 *“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to **demolish strongholds.** We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive **every thought** to make it **obedient to Christ.**”*

*“Grace and truth” and “The law of the Spirit of Life” came by Jesus Christ.<sup>5</sup> Continued legalism, after the Grace of God has been revealed, is either a rejection of that Grace or an indication that it was never received, and is everywhere in Scripture, candidate for the unforgivable sin.<sup>6</sup> “But now that you know God-or rather are known by God-how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.”<sup>7</sup>*

Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world,<sup>8</sup> neither should we be of this world,<sup>9</sup> but rather the Kingdom of God is *“righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.”<sup>10</sup>* It is true, however, that the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power,<sup>11</sup> power to transform lives, and the power of transformed lives. Believers are, first of all, the fruit of the Gospel, fruit containing seed, for the generation of new life, but fruit none-the-less. As such our lives should manifest; *“...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”<sup>12</sup>* These things do not come from eating the law. They come from eating the Passover Lamb.

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<sup>5</sup> Romans 8:2, Ephesians 4:30

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 6:5, 12:31, 32

<sup>7</sup> Galatians 4:9-11

<sup>8</sup> John 18:36

<sup>9</sup> II Timothy 2:4, James 1:27, 4:4-10, I John 2:15-17

<sup>10</sup> Romans 14:17

<sup>11</sup> I Corinthians 4:20

<sup>12</sup> Galatians 5:22

These qualities are not to be held aloof from the world rather they are to be the salt of the earth. A people so imbued can change the world. Commandments cannot change people for the better on the contrary, they only serve to reveal our wretchedness. Paul says the law is good if one uses it properly.<sup>13</sup> Strictly speaking, the law is useless as a source of how to live, for it can only kill. Its proper use is to determine whether or not the life that is being lived, the walk being walked, the deeds being done, the words being spoken, the thoughts being thought, are in the Spirit.

Rules and regulations can only serve as an indicator of whether or not the fruit of the spirit is present in a person or a people. *“All men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*<sup>14</sup>

Jay Ferris Circa 1989

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<sup>13</sup> I Timothy 1:8

<sup>14</sup> John 13:35

## TRUST APPENDIX

PSA 146:3 **"Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save."**

PRO 21:22 A wise man attacks the city of the mighty and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust.

JER 8:18 O my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me

JER 8:19 Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King no longer there?" "Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their worthless foreign idols?"

JER 8:20 "The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved."

JER 8:21 Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me.

JER 8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?

JER 9:1 Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people.

JER 9:2 Oh, that I had in the desert a lodging place for travelers, so that I might leave my people and go away from them; for they are all adulterers, a crowd of unfaithful people.

JER 9:3 "They make ready their tongue like a bow, to shoot lies; it is not by truth that they triumph in the land. They go from one sin to another; they do not acknowledge me," declares the Lord.

JER 9:4 **"Beware of your friends; do not trust your brothers. For every brother is a deceiver, and every friend a slanderer.**

JER 9:5 **Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie;** they weary themselves with sinning.

JER 9:6 You live in the midst of deception; in their deceit they refuse to acknowledge me," declares the Lord.

JER 9:7 Therefore this is what the Lord Almighty says: "See, I will refine and test them, for what else can I do because of the sin of my people?"

JER 9:8 **Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks with deceit. With his mouth each speaks cordially to his neighbor, but in his heart he sets a trap for him.**

JER 9:9 Should I not punish them for this?" declares the Lord. "Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this?"

JER 9:10 I will weep and wail for the mountains and take up a lament concerning the desert pastures. They are desolate and untraveled, and the lowing of cattle is not heard. The birds of the air have fled and the animals are gone.

JER 9:11 "I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals; and I will lay waste the towns of Judah so no one can live there."

JER 9:12 What man is wise enough to understand this? Who has been instructed by the Lord and can explain it? Why has the land been ruined and laid waste like a desert that no one can cross?

JER 12:5 "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?"

**JER 12:6 Your brothers, your own family--even they have betrayed you; they have raised a loud cry against you. Do not trust them, though they speak well of you.**

JER 12:7, 8 "I will forsake my house, abandon my inheritance; I will give the one I love into the hands of her enemies. My inheritance has become to me like a lion in the forest. She roars at me; therefore I hate her.

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LUK 19:17 "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

**JOH 2:24,25 But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.**

**JOH 14:1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.**

ACT 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to **the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.**

ROM 15:13 **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,** so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1CO 7:25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trust worthy.

1TI 3:11 In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

HEB 2:13 And again, "**I will put my trust in him.**" And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."