

Trust as a Sacred Stewardship

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." – 1 Peter 4:8

"Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'" – Matthew 5:37

In the Kingdom of God, trust is holy ground. It is the soil where healthy relationships, ministry collaboration, and spiritual growth take root. And just like faith, trust is built through small, faithful acts—day by day, choice by choice. Adapted from "The Thin Book of Trust," Charles Feltman's research gives us a powerful, practical framework for understanding how trust is built—or broken—within any team or relationship. These four dimensions of trust mirror the kind of character Christ calls us to embody.

1. SINCERITY: Speaking Truth in Love

Ephesians 4:15 – *"Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body..."*

Sincerity reflects the integrity of our words. In ministry, this means being honest even when it's uncomfortable. It's choosing truth over appearance, clarity over people-pleasing. Without sincerity, even the most spiritual-sounding words ring hollow.

2. RELIABILITY: Being Faithful with What's Given

Luke 16:10 – *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much..."*

Reliability mirrors God's faithfulness. It's not just about task management—it's about becoming a person others can count on. Just as we rely on God's unchanging nature, others look to us to be steady in the small things.

3. COMPETENCE: Stewarding Your Gifts with Excellence

Colossians 3:23 – *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..."*

Competence in the body of Christ isn't about pride—it's about faithful stewardship. God equips each of us uniquely. When we neglect our gifts or serve beyond our capacity without humility, we can undermine trust unintentionally.

4. CARE: Loving One Another Deeply and Tangibly

John 13:35 – *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Care reflects the heart of Christ. It asks, "Do I value you beyond what you can do for me?" Love that shows up, defends, sacrifices, and celebrates is the foundation of trust in any gospel-centered community.

Team Trust Thermostat Checkup

Trust Area	1 = Chilly (Trust is Weak)	3 = Lukewarm (Trust is Incomplete)	5 = Warm (Trust is Strong)
SINCERITY	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	"Are we honest and clear?"	
RELIABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	"Can we count on each other?"	
COMPETENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	"Are we equipped and growing?"	
CARE	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5	"Do we feel known, valued, protected?"	