

Covenant Relationships Part 4

Community, Trust and Unrealistic Expectations



from the Heart Of The Rabbis
Rabbin Deborah Brandt

Community, Trust and Unrealistic Expectations- The Development of Trust

You can love someone with the love of YHWH, but trustworthiness or trust must be earned. We are not to pour out our trust and intimacy upon the ground only to have it trampled upon.

You can't expect to walk into a Congregation and expect the Leadership and everyone to trust you immediately.

They need to see first are you;

- #1. Just looking around for a Congregation.
- #2. A Congregation Hopper that keeps jumping from one place to another.
- #3. Someone who is looking to be used and be a part of the community via commitment, tithing and using their spiritual gifts.
- #4. Are you someone who is looking to steal sheep and try to coheres people to follow you elsewhere.

Yes, congregational leaders have gone through all of these scenarios and you can be welcomed, in the love of Messiah, but not necessarily become a total part of the Community until you have proven that you are

committed. This goes along with developing friendships within the Community as well.

Mat 7:6 "Do not give what is holy to dogs or throw your pearls before pigs; otherwise they will trample them under their feet, then turn and rip you to shreds. TLV

The pearl of your life, should not be trusted into the hands of an unfaithful person.

The principle of developing a close friendship is to groom oneself and the other person to be trustworthy not to hurt one another

Trust vs Love

If one wants close Community, Trust and Intimacy, he must develop the character of trustworthiness, so that the potential of not being hurt does not come to pass.

We have been hurt many times by people we trusted to quickly.

Joh 2:23 Now when He was in Jerusalem for the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, seeing the signs He was doing.

Joh 2:24 But Yeshua did not entrust Himself to them, because He knew all men.

Joh 2:25 He did not need anyone to testify about man, for He knew what was in man. TLV

The word "COMMIT" might also be translated as "ENTRUST". Yeshua did not trust just anyone because He knew most people were untrustworthy. Yeshua picked men who had the 'Potential' of being "Trustworthy". He spent His time training them to get them to the point of being able to receive His Trust.

Before we put someone into a leadership position, they have to first be teachable and willing to be trained by the leadership and prove trustworthy of little responsibilities before they are given responsibilities over much. We have learned by our mistakes and what 1 Timothy 3 says should be followed.

1Ti 3:1 Trustworthy is the saying: "If any man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good

work.”

1Ti 3:2 An overseer, then, must be beyond criticism—the husband of one wife, clear-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1Ti 3:3 not addicted to wine, not violent but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money,

1Ti 3:4 managing his own household well, keeping his children under control with all respectfulness.

1Ti 3:5 (But if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s community?)

1Ti 3:6 He must not be a new believer, or he may become puffed up and fall into the same judgment as the devil.

Putting someone who is a new believer into a position of authority is a BIG MISTAKE!

The whole method & goal of discipleship is to take someone who has the potential of being a trustworthy member and developing him to that point of being trusted by the Community. We can help them and minister to them, however we do not risk through vulnerability, destroying the potential to continue to love one another by opening our inner self to someone who is not trustworthy.

We need to protect the Community from wolves in sheep’s clothing and those who come into a Community for only one reason and that is to take advantage of the leadership and members.

Blocking the Fiery Darts

We can love and help someone who is antagonistic, treacherous or untrustworthy, but we must do so while wearing our spiritual armour.

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you are able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the worldly forces of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Eph 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist when the times are

evil, and after you have done everything, to stand firm.

Eph 6:14 Stand firm then! Buckle the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Eph 6:15 Strap up your feet in readiness with the Good News of shalom.

Eph 6:16 Above all, take up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. TLV

The shield of faith protects us from the attack of evil spirits, negative thoughts and from negative nasty words people may say to us.

No Course Jesting

The fiery darts of the devil are primarily spoken to us through other people. Many times, people will say hurtful things to people and follow up with “I was only kidding, don’t be so sensitive”!

Pro 18:18 The lot puts an end to quarrels and decides between powerful contenders.

Pro 18:19 A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.

Pro 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Pro 25:18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.

Pro 25:19 Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips. (All ESV Trans)

Biblical Definition of a Friend

Joh 15:12 "This is my command: that you keep on loving each other just as I have loved you.

Joh 15:13 No one has greater love than a person who lays down his life for his friends.

Joh 15:14 You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

Joh 15:15 I no longer call you slaves, because a

slave doesn't know what his master is about; but I have called you friends, because everything I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

The process of discipleship by Yeshua was done by taking a group of people who were untrustworthy, but had the potential of becoming trustworthy, putting them through a training period to develop trust and ending up with a group of people who are trustworthy.

3 Stages of becoming a trusted part of a Community:

- **Potential** – Everyone has the potential to be a part of Community or a member but they must prove themselves first to be trustworthy.
- **Training**- A person who wants to become a part of a Community must be willing to abide by the rules of membership and attend any classes deemed necessary by the leadership to become a member of the Community.
- **Community** – After having shown that they are trustworthy, have been trained, then they can enter into vital members of the Community.

The Biblical meaning of the word friend.

We should replace the word 'Friend' in our minds with the word "Covenant Friend" or "Covenant Companion" or "Faithful Partner".

Joh 15:13 No one has greater love than a person who lays down his life for his friends.

Joh 15:14 You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

Joh 15:15 I no longer call you slaves, because a slave doesn't know what his master is about; but I have called you friends, because everything I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

- First they were strangers
- Then they were servants-They were trained and discipled
- Then they became His friends

One must go through a process before earning the position of trusted friend. That process of trust building is a new a New Covenant Discipleship

God refers to "Abraham My Friend"

2Ch 20:7 You, our God, drove out those living in the land ahead of your people Isra'el and gave it forever to the descendants of **Avraham your friend.**
CJB

Isa 41:8 "But you, Isra'el, my servant; Ya`akov, whom I have chosen, descendants of **Avraham my friend,** CJB

Jas 2:23 and the passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled which says, "Avraham had faith in God, and it was credited to his account as righteousness." **He was even called God's friend.** CJB

In other words, Abraham was His "Covenant Trusted Friend"

Training To Be Trustworthy

The model of discipleship is that of building faithfulness into a group of friends.

2Ti 2:2 And the things you heard from me, which were supported by many witnesses, **these things commit to faithful people, such as will be competent to teach others also.**

Process of discipleship

#1 Discern which men have the potential to be faithful

#2 Choose them to be trained

#3 Discipleship to Faithful Friend

Secret Relationships

Mat 13:10 Then the talmidim came and asked Yeshua, "Why are you speaking to them in parables?"

Mat 13:11 He answered, "Because it has been given to you to know the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but it has not been given to them.

Mat 13:12 For anyone who has something will be

given more, so that he will have plenty; but from anyone who has nothing, even what he does have will be taken away.

Mat 13:13 Here is why I speak to them in parables: they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. CJB

These were Yeshua's inner circle, He spoke to them and taught them in a different way than those who were outside his circle-because of the level of trust he had developed with them.

Vs. 13- Faithfulness brings more and more revelation.

If we are not faithful, our minds may continue to fill up with certain "seeming fruits" about scripture, but they will only be of a superficial nature. If we are not trustworthy, our spiritual eyes will be blinded to the inner meaning of the Word.

1Co 4:1 So, you should regard us as the Messiah's servants, as trustees of God's secret truths.

1Co 4:2 Now the one thing that is asked of a trustee is that he be found trustworthy.

Trustworthiness had to be learned

Joh 16:12 "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now.

Joh 16:13 However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own initiative but will say only what he hears. He will also announce to you the events of the future.

Pretend Friendship – Eventually what is really inside the person will come out under pressure! A true friend will be faithful no matter what. A person who is committed to a Congregation will not just give lip service but show their commitment by their works as well.

Pro 18:24 Some "friends" pretend to be friends, but a true friend sticks closer than a brother.

Tit 2:1 But you, explain what kind of behavior goes

along with sound teaching.

Tit 2:2 Tell the older men to be serious, sensible, self-controlled and sound in their trust, love and perseverance.

Carnal Socializer- They are only looking for what is in it for themselves, they do not have servants hearts but are takers.

Pro 16:29 A man of violence entices his neighbor and leads him in a way that is not good.

Pro 16:30 Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things; he who purses his lips brings evil to pass.

What the world calls being friendly is often soulish or carnal socializing and the outward appearance friendship.

'Life of the Party' - a party spirit in the guise of fellowship can be dangerous

This type of person can gather people around him, a circle of loyalty to the flesh-should he become offended, he may cause a division that will tear up many young plants/congregations. We have seen this happen in our Community and also in the Communities of other Rabbis/Leaders as well.

There is a difference between Intimacy & Socializing

Titus 2:2*8

Tit 2:2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.

Tit 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

Tit 2:4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,

Tit 2:5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

Tit 2:6 Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

Tit 2:7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity,

dignity,

Tit 2:8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

Discernment of spirit is important for the promoting of healthy and sincere friendship within a Community of believers

Gateway To Happiness- Rabbi Zelig Pliskin (Pg 56-57)

Unrealistic Expectations people have about Congregations. I am sharing insights from a book that deal with individuals but can also be applied to Covenant Relationship within a Community as well.

#1. Unrealistic expectations are at the heart of much of our emotional pain. We feel upset and disappointed when our expectations are not met. If we did not have unrealistic expectations, we would not suffer so much. Clarify what you can actually expect from the world. Is it realistic to think that everything will work out exactly as you wish? Of course not. If you give up your unrealistic demands of how things must be, you will save yourself much needless disappointment.

#2. Major areas of expectation are:

- a) The world should be exactly as I wish*
- b) Other people should do and be exactly as I wish*
- c) I should be able to do or accomplish whatever I wish.*

Listed in this form, anyone can easily see these are impossible demands. Given them up and you will save yourself much frustration. Many marriages would be happier if people would give up unrealistic expectations and demands. Plan wisely, but don't demand.

Challenge unrealistic demands by asking yourself; "Who gave me a guarantee that events will always be the way I would like them to be? On what grounds am I basing my expectations? Upon what law of the universe am I basing them?"

#3. People frequently say, "He made me sad", or "It got me upset" This implies that external factors are the cause of their emotions and they are not able to do anything about it. The reality is that external events cannot make you sad or upset; you do so yourself by what you tell yourself about external events. Get into the habit of saying, "I make myself sad because of what I tell myself about his actions or words" or "I make myself upset because of what I tell myself about what happened". When you speak in these terms, you are accepting the responsibility for your reactions. This will serve as an incentive to change your thoughts and attitudes from those which you make yourself unhappy With those which you will enable yourself to be happy"

BINGO!!! STOP HAVING UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ABOUT YOUR RABBI/LEADER AND FELLOW MEMBERS AND START REALIZING THAT THERE IS NO PERFECT COMMUNITY OR A PLACE WITHOUT ISSUES. THEN YOU WILL FIND THE JOY THAT COMES FROM COVENANT RELATIONSHIPS, TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP.