

12 WAYS TO BUILD TRUST

INTRODUCTION

A meme circulating the internet recently teaches “12 Ways to Build Trust.” The foundation of every relationship – professional, social, personal, or familial – is trust, so this is a worthwhile consideration. Most of these rules are spot on, but others, not so much.

I. HONOR YOUR COMMITMENTS

A. **Deuteronomy 23:21-23**

Once we have entered into commitments voluntarily, we are obligated to see them through to completion.

B. **Ecclesiastes 5:5**

Simply put, we are better off under-promising and over-delivering than over-promising and under-delivering.

II. COMMUNICATE PROPERLY

A. **1st Corinthians 14:7-9**

Just as soldiers would need to recognize a bugle sounding “retreat” or “charge,” so anyone who speaks should speak so as to be understood.

B. **Matthew 5:37**

Words don’t need a lot of layers, usually. Just say what needs to be said.

III. MAKE CAREFUL DECISIONS

A. **Luke 14:25-32**

Know what you’re getting yourself into and assess risk in advance.

B. **Proverbs 11:15**

No one should accept responsibility for others’ financial decisions.

IV. BE CONSISTENT IN YOUR ACTIONS

A. Proverbs 24:21

People inclined to change are, by that very fact, unreliable.

B. Ephesians 4:14

In Christ, we need steadiness and certainty.

V. LISTEN ACTIVELY TO OTHERS

A. Proverbs 18:13, 17; John 7:51

Active listening demands that we hear both sides of any story before arriving at any conclusions or taking any actions.

B. Mark 4:23; Romans 10:17

Listening is essential to faith, and thus salvation.

VI. HELP OTHERS

A. Deuteronomy 22:1-4

Long before Jesus taught about the good Samaritan, God, through Moses,

B. Matthew 6:1-4

While helping others, it is important to do so without seeking credit.

VII. ~~SHARE YOUR FEELINGS OPENLY~~

A. Proverbs 29:11; 14:33

It is decidedly foolish to broadcast emotions in full. Wise men and women know to keep feelings to themselves, at least to some reasonable extent.

B. Luke 2:19, 51

Mary, the mother of Jesus, kept certain things in her heart.

VIII. ADMIT MISTAKES

A. James 5:16

There is no serving the Lord without opening up about our faults.

B. Psalm 147:6

It is indicative of humility.

IX. APOLOGIZE WHEN YOU ARE WRONG

A. Matthew 5:23-24

Jesus taught that making amends for wrongdoing takes precedence over even worshipping!

B. Genesis 33:8

Jacob went to great extent to appease his brother Esau after offending him grievously decades earlier.

X. DO & SAY WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN

A. John 12:42-43

Obviously, faith alone is insufficient to save. That faith must be expressed verbally!

B. James 1:22

More than that, it takes action.

XI. BE HONEST

A. Ephesians 4:25

It should be plain enough that lying does not fit Christlike behavior.

B. John 8:44

All lies are ultimately Satanic.

XII. ~~SHOW YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF~~

A. Colossians 3:3

Don't show your authentic self. Hide yourself in Jesus and show Him instead!

B. Galatians 2:20

Let Christ live in you!