

Ephesians 4:10-16 (NRSV)

&

1 Corinthians 13:1-8 (NIV)



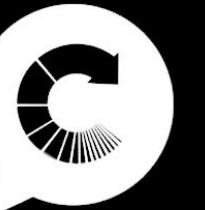
¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things. ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for **building up the body of Christ**,

Ephesians 4:10-16 (NRSV)



¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

Ephesians 4:10-16 (NRSV)



¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.



¹ If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.



³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.



⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, **always trusts**, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails.



Love always trusts



(Insert “built on trust” graphic)





πιστεύω

- to consider something to be true and therefore **worthy of one's trust**
- A variation of the greek word πίστις (faith)

mistrust

- to be uncertain
- to believe that something is not true or is unlikely
- to have no confidence in (someone or something)



“the last three hundred years have witnessed some of the most serious intellectual assaults against Christianity in it’s history...”



There is an assault on trust within
the Church



Ways that trust is broken:

1. Blame others
 - No personal responsibility is taken
2. Blame human nature
 - Underestimate the depth of human sin
3. Blame a system or organization
 - Me vs. them mentality | mass generalization



¹⁸ John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them,¹⁹ he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"²⁰ When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

Luke 7:18-20



Trust is a choice



The consequences of confrontation are **far less**
severe than the consequences of concealment



²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ²³ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

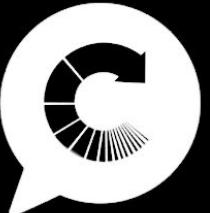
Luke 7:21-23



Jesus is the gospel



The historical events of Jesus life don't explain how
he learned the way of salvation, they are the way of
salvation



²⁴ After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ²⁵ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

Luke 7:24-28



27 This is the one about whom it is written: “ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ” 28 I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Luke 7:24-28



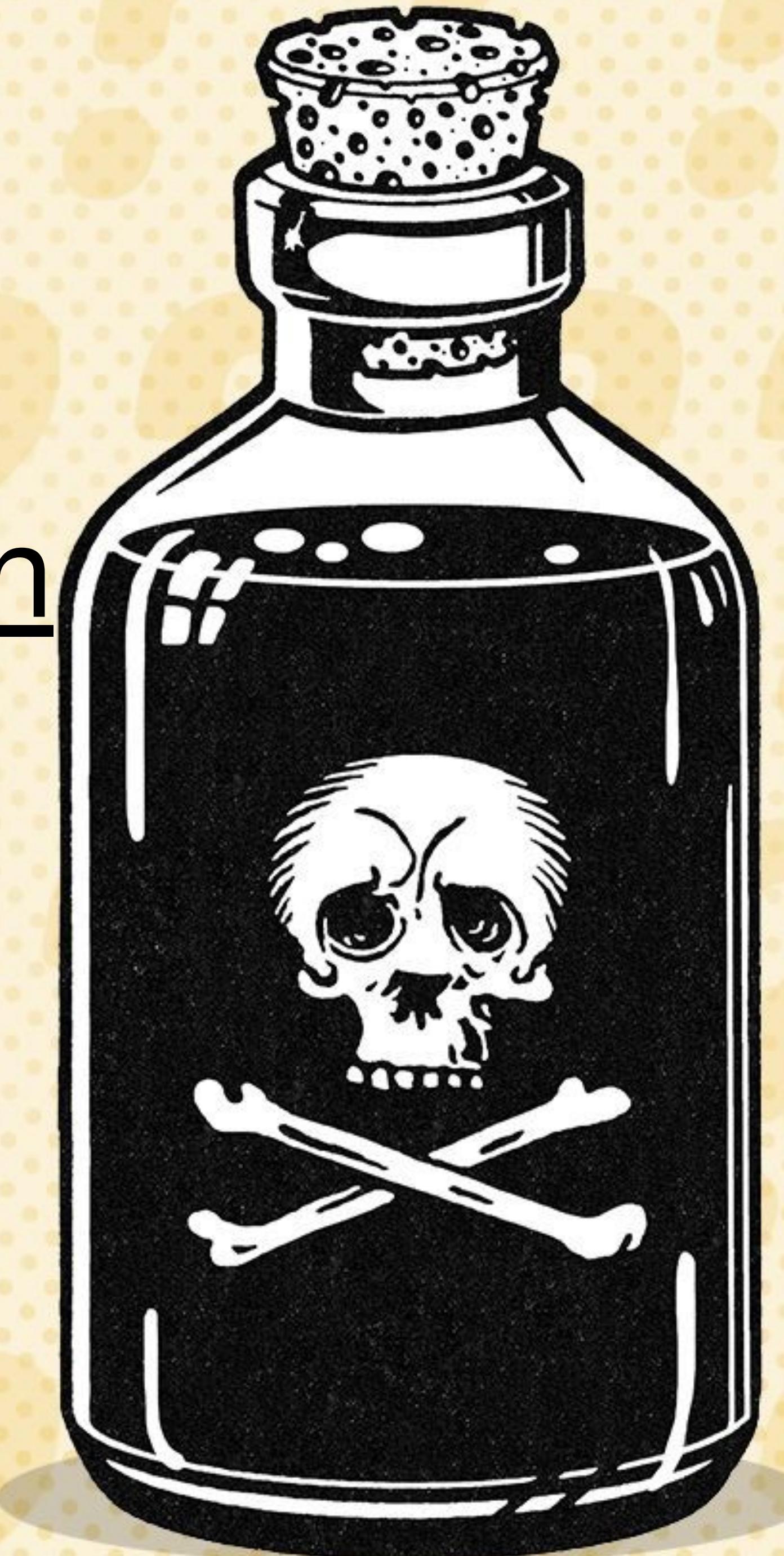
We are



a
team



accommodating suspicion
and mistrust will poison
the culture of a church



To cultivate a environment filled with healthy
righteous relationships (grounded in love)
we, the church, must choose to trust and be
trustworthy



ACTION STEPS

1. Meditate on Psalm 86:2
2. Reach Out to someone you trust - encourage them by going into detail on why you trust them



COMMUNION QUESTION

Does Jesus sacrifice on the cross help you trust
Him and His Church? Why or why not?





CHOOSE
to
TRUST

Wounds from a friend can be trusted.
(Proverbs 27:6)