

7/9/17 Handout – Love and Trust and the Heart

The normal pattern: *'From the womb, You made me trust when upon my mother's breasts'* (Psalm 22:19) *'satisfied from her consoling breast... you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforts... You shall...rejoice...flourish...'* (Isaiah 66:11-14). *'I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child rests against his mother...'* (Ps 131:2-3 NAS)

Attachment theory says the problem when that normal pattern is broken is a child doesn't develop normal trust in a caregiver, causing abnormal unhealthy patterns. But God's prophets don't describe trust in man as one's ultimate problem or ultimate solution, ultimate healing is in trusting God instead of trusting self: *'He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe...Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...It will be healing to your body...'* (Pr 28:26, 3:5, 8)

More from God's Prophets on Trust

Trusting in yourself can include trusting your own efforts to manipulate, dominate, control, confuse, etc.:
-Isaiah 30:12 *'you despise what I tell you and trust instead in oppression [or violence] and lies...'*
-Isa 59:4, 47:10 *'They trust in confusion and speak lies...you have trusted in your wickedness...'* (NAS)
-Habakkuk 2:4 *'Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked...'* (NLT)
-Jeremiah 7:8, 17:5-8 *'you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless...This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert...But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes...It has no worries...and never fails to bear fruit.'*
-Isa 26:3: *You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.*
-Hosea 10:13 *'You have eaten the fruit of lies, because you trusted in your own way...'* (NKJV)

Hosea 14 says in God *'the fatherless find compassion.'* *The Lord says "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them...he will blossom...He will send down his roots...He will flourish...I will answer him and care for him...your fruitfulness comes from me"* (v. 3-8)

1. There is Much Hope and Help for Parents and their Children in the Prophets

Isa 57:10, 40:31: *You were wearied by all your ways, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found renewal of your strength, and so you did not faint...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Lamentations 3:21: *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:* ²² *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;* ²³ *they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* ²⁴ *"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." ...* ⁴⁰ *Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD!* ⁴¹ *Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven ...* (ESV)

2. God the Father as our Shepherd wants shepherds after His heart to shepherd His child's heart

In Zechariah 10:2 laments how the children of Israel *'wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd'*
Ezekiel 34: *You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick...I will seek out my sheep...I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD...I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak... They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid....*(v. 4, 12, 15-16, 28)

Jeremiah 31:25: *I will fully satisfy the needs of those who are weary and...those who are faint... (NET).*

Jeremiah 23:4, 3:16 *I will place shepherds over them who will tend them and they will no longer be afraid ...I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.*

Building Bridges to the Heart – Learning from God in His Prophets

Jer 8:21 *For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded; I mourn...Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter...not been restored?* (ESV)
Isaiah 30:26: *the LORD binds up the brokenness of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted ...*
Isaiah 35:4 *'Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God..."* (NKJV)

God's Love in the Gospel of His Son is the Ultimate Bridge to the Heart and Healing in Families

Malachi 4 said Messiah would come *'with healing in its wings,'* and the message of His coming would *'turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers'* (v. 2, 6).

Larry Bergstrom, M.D, *Complementary and Integrative Medicine, Rooted*, p. 58: *'we must understand and address these trust and control issues. This foundationally begins through a deep understanding of God's love for us and the transformational healing power of redemption and grace found in Jesus.'* *Rooted* p. 44: *'Building trust-based relationships with our children is hard work, but it's essential as we move toward helping them. We help our children because God, in his love, helped us...How does God help us change?'*

Isaiah 42 says the coming Lord Jesus *'will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench... will not grow faint or be discouraged... I will take you by the hand and keep you...to open the eyes...in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them'* (v. 1-6, 16 ESV, or NET *'will not abandon'*)

Implications or applications for some ways parents often discipline? (see also *Rooted* questions, p. 66-67)

This same Lord said *'I will not leave you as orphans...love as I have loved you'* (John 14:18, 15:12)
And Isaiah 1:17 *'Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans'* (NLT)

Play and Variety and Creativity in Teaching Methods the Lord used in His prophets

In Isaiah 66 God compares His children to little ones with their mother, *"carried at her side; you will play on her knees. As a mother consoles a child...you will be happy, and you will be revived"* (v. 12-14 NET)

- For further study on how play can build bridges to your child's heart, read *Rooted*, p. 70-76
- For further study on how play can be used to help children heal and grow and learn behaviors:
 - o Dr. Purvis, 'Creative Ways to Help Learn New Behaviors,' <https://vimeo.com/12655640>
 - o " ", 'Impact of Hard Places on Brain,' <https://vimeo.com/152938496> (at 44:30 mark)
 - o Tapestry Adoption Ministry conference seminar, 'Playful,' <https://vimeo.com/62847652>
 - o Tapestry seminar, 'How play helps my child grow and heal,' <https://vimeo.com/85985545>

Various other methods of teaching in the prophets:

- Using visuals, including small models or props to illustrate events (Ezekiel 4:1-3, Jeremiah 19:10-11)
- Role play or acting out to help stubborn or rebellious ones who don't grasp verbal messages (Ezekiel 12)
- Allegory, parable (Ezekiel 17) or humor to show folly of what you trust (1 Kings 18:27, Isa 44:12-20)
- Helping physically, leading with cords, getting down on their level to meet their needs (Hosea 11:3-4)
- See also Dr. Baker and Dr. Timothy Paul Jones seminar helps for R.A.D. at www.sermonaudio.com/gcbc

2nd chances to obey, give sinner time to think, not always giving immediate consequences or answers

See scriptures in Borgman, p. 88-91. Study Jonah 4, note God kindly still meeting Jonah's needs in v. 4-6 and how God dealt with Jonah's sinful heart. Study also God's parenting His prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 19 in his flight-fear mode (v. 3), how God didn't engage Elijah's irrational emotional words in v. 4, but God provided for his physical needs of rest, food, and drink, and came a 2nd time for the journey ahead, v. 5-8. Note also how God patiently repeatedly asked questions and what he showed Elijah to help obey, v. 9-19.