

Why can't We Be Friends?

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 31:48-49 (NIV)

48 Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” That is why it was called Galeed. **49** It was also called Mizpah, because he said, “May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other.

Contextual Misinterpretation: Genesis 31:48-49

While often used to convey a warm, protective blessing, the original context of Genesis 31:49 is one of suspicion and distrust.

There is an argument that Christians need to learn to trust others.

- 1. Trusting others is almost inseparable from loving others.** True intimacy can only be achieved through honesty and trust.
- 2. The overwhelming majority of Scriptures about trust are aimed at pointing our trust towards The Lord and away from possessions, power, and (especially) other people.**
- 3. To live a life not trusting others is to not love them, not to invite them into your life, and to fundamentally, not trust the Lord and live in unbelief.**

Argument for Biblical Trust among Christians.

- Point 1. It's a function of love. (1Corinthians 13:7)
- Point 2. It's necessary for building the body of Christ. (James 5:16)
- Point 3. It cultivates safety. (Proverbs 16:28, 1 Timothy 5:13)
- Point 4. It involves honest communication. (Ephesians 4:15)
- Point 5. It requires trustworthiness. (Matthew 5:37)

Tools for Navigating Broken Trust

Because of human sinfulness, trust will inevitably be broken. The biblical response involves:

- **Forgiveness vs. Trust:**
- **Wisdom and Boundaries:** (Matthew 10:16)
- **Believing the Best:** (1 Corinthians 13:7)

Learning to trust is difficult. Only through God's strength, you can trust someone who has cut you deeply. God is fully trustworthy...man – not so much. Jesus teaches us that true trust involves relying entirely on God's providence rather than personal understanding, fear, or material wealth.