

# TRUST ACCOUNT

## LIVING IN THE LAND #6

**Introduction:** Trust has been eroded in our society.

- Lack of trust – in most of our institutions
  - Among people
- How do we represent a trustworthy God in a world where there is an erosion of trust?

### 1. Deception Erodes Trust

BACKGROUND: Gibeonite deception

- Gibeon – royal city chief among the Hivites
- Tricked with mouldy bread, worn clothes and patched sandals (Joshua 9:4-5)
- How would you regard these people?
  - Deceivers
  - Traitors
  - Not to be trusted
- Why do people deceive?
  - Usually out of fear

**Joshua 9:9-10** *They answered: “your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the Lord our God. For we have heard reports of him; all that he did in Egypt, and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of Jordan – Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth.*

- Fame, reputation, character of God

**Acts 5:12-13** *The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.*

- Gibeonites deceived to be accepted.
  - Can that happen today?

## 2. Deceiver can be Restored

BACKGROUND: Joshua asked “Why did you deceive us?”

**Joshua 9:24** *They answered Joshua, “Your servants were clearly told how the Lord your God had commanded His servant Moses to give you the whole land and to wipe out all its inhabitants from before you. So we feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this.”*

- God made you a promise
  - To give you the land (inheritance)
- To be part of the people of God they had to....

**Joshua 9:27** *That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the community and for the altar of the Lord at the place the Lord would choose. And that is what they are to this day.*

- Break with the past
- Be servants to the community
  - Be servants of God (before the altar)
- Be loyal
  - They did not rebel
  - David put the Ark in Gibeon
  - Israelites returned from bondage in Babylon included Gibeonites.

## 3. Unity and Diversity / Opinions

- Do you have an opinion?
- Opinions should not be formed on the basis of fear.
  - Fear is an emotion which is not concerned with facts.
- To form an opinion:
  - Examine the facts

- Weigh up the evidence
- Form an opinion

**Romans 14:1** (TPT) *Offer an open hand of fellowship to welcome every true believer, even though their faith may be weak and immature. And refuse to engage in debates with them concerning nothing more than opinions.*

- True believer
  - Debate is not about fundamentals of the Christian faith.
- List a Debatable Topics
  - Vegetarian Diet
    - Free to eat anything (14:2)
    - Not just health reasons, but spiritual as meat sold in butchers of the day had come from pagan temples.
  - Sabbath Day
    - One day more sacred than another? (14:5)
  - Wine
    - In a society where drinking wine was common, there was already a debate whether alcohol / new wine was acceptable
  - Covid Jab?
    - Examine the facts (fears?)
    - Weigh up the evidence
    - Form an opinion.

#### 4. Strong Opinions – Strong Love

How to develop trust:

- (a) **Romans 14:4** *Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*
- (b) **Romans 14:5b** *Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind...*
- (c) **Romans 14:6** *...he does so to the Lord....*
- (d) **Romans 14:23** *...everything that does not come from faith is sin.*

**Conclusion:** We are called to reflect the kingdom of God on the earth.

**Romans 14:17-18** *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.*