**Dependability**

**Introduction**

1. Dependable – trustworthy and reliable.
   1. We depend on:
      1. Car – to turn on and get us where we need to go.
      2. Alarm – to sound as programmed and wake us up on time.
      3. A/C, Heater – Keep us cool in the summer, and warm in the winter.
      4. Doctors – to know what to do to ensure our health.
      5. Pay check – each payday so we can pay the bills, etc.
   2. When we think about it there are countless things we depend on every day.
2. Biblically
   1. Faithful – *pistos* – "trusty, faithful, trustworthy." (VINE); “trustworthy, faithful, DEPENDABLE, inspiring trust or faith” (BDAG; 670).
   2. **Cf. 1 Timothy 1:12** – Jesus saw Paul as one He could trust for the apostolic ministry. He saw that Paul could be dependable if converted to Christ.
   3. **Cf. 2 Timothy 2:2** – ***“faithful men”*** are not simply those who are righteous Christians but RELIABLE Christians.
   4. God is faithful – dependable and reliable. Worthy of our trust.
   5. We are called to be faithful – dependable in our relationship to God, and others, as our relationship with God governs our relationship with them.
3. Can it be said that we are dependable Christians? Can God depend on you? Can other Christians depend on you? Are you dependable in all your relationships?
4. Dependable or Not? – Examples
5. Undependable
   1. Aaron to Moses – **Exodus 32:21-25** – Aaron showed himself undependable when Moses was on the mount. Led the people in sin.
   2. John Mark to Paul – **Acts 13:13; 15:38** – John Mark left Paul and his companions in the middle of a missionary journey, and later Paul did not find him dependable to take again.
   3. Demas to Paul – **2 Timothy 4:10** – Demas couldn’t be relied upon to remain at Paul’s side being faithful to the gospel. (Seems to be that during a time of intense trial Demas folded, and did not stand with Paul.)
   4. Peter, James and John to Jesus – **Matthew 26:37-38, 40-41** – could not even watch and pray with Jesus at His most intense hour.
6. Dependable
   1. Ruth to Naomi
      1. **Ruth 1:11-18** – After Ruth’s husband died, she had no ties to Naomi, but out of love and devotion stayed with Naomi.
         1. Naomi lost her husband, Elimelech.
         2. Naomi’s sons, Mahlon and Chilion, married Orpah and Ruth (Moabite women – not Jews).
         3. Mahlon and Chilion died, and Orpah and Ruth remained.
         4. Orpah evidently leaves, but Ruth remained loyal to Naomi.
         5. Ruth was dependable.
      2. **Ruth 4:13-17** – Because of Ruth’s loyalty, and dependability, Naomi had a grandson, and her name continued. (**cf. Matthew 1:5** – of the lineage of Christ)
   2. Jonathan to David
      1. When first meeting after David’s triumph over Goliath – **1 Samuel 18:1-4**
         1. Knit souls – affection, but also admiration to the degree of devotion.
         2. Covenant – of friendship, devotion to each other.
         3. Gifts – to show such feelings, and devotion.
      2. **1 Samuel 19:1-6** – Saul sought to kill David, but Jonathan took a stand.
      3. **Proverbs 17:17 –** such a friendship would be tested by adversity – WOULD JONATHAN CONTINUE TO BE DEPENDABLE?
      4. Saul sought to kill David again – **1 Samuel 20:1-4** – as Saul sought David’s life, Jonathan remained loyal, and did indeed do all that David required
         1. David would not attend a banquet.
         2. Jonathan would say David is with family in Bethlehem for a sacrifice.
         3. Saul’s reaction would tell how he truly felt about David.
         4. Jonathan informed David of Saul’s hateful plots, and David fled.
   3. Timothy to Paul
      1. Timothy and Paul were very close, and Paul felt he could depend upon Timothy.
      2. **Philippians 2:19-24** – Paul had confidence in Timothy.
         1. No one like-minded – i.e. like Timothy – sincerely would care for the Philippians.
         2. Confident he would care for the things of Christ.
         3. Proven character – something Paul could depend on continuing.
      3. Could depend on him to continue the fight of faith – **2 Timothy 4:1-2, 6** – Paul was close to death, and made the charge especially to Timothy.
   4. Jesus to Us – **Hebrews 2:17-18** – Jesus is faithful, trustworthy, dependable. We can trust Him to aid us as we need.
7. We are called to be faithful, trustworthy, and dependable. Can we be relied upon, or are we undependable, flaky individuals that cannot be depended upon by God, or others?
8. We Need to be Dependable
9. Stewards of God
   1. **1 Corinthians 4:1-2** – it is required of stewards to be faithful.
      1. Steward – *oikonomos*; from 3624 and the base of 3551; a house-distributor (i.e. manager), or overseer, i.e. an employee in that capacity; by extension, a fiscal agent (treasurer) (Strong)
      2. OF THE MYSTERY – gospel – **1 Corinthians 3:9-11** – only concerned with preaching Christ.
      3. Steward in God’s house – as a preacher of the gospel. (He is not accepting the position the Corinthians are estimating him to have. He is merely a steward.)
      4. Faithful – The expectation of God was for Paul to be trustworthy and dependable in his services of the gospel. Nothing more, nothing less. (Paul only cared to be judged by God as such.)
      5. Will be judged by God – **vv. 3-5** – will be proven as dependable.
   2. Making disciples – **Matthew 28:19**
   3. Defending the gospel – **Jude 3**
   4. Living for Jesus – **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**
10. Members of the Body of Christ
    1. We should be able to depend on one another. This is God’s design – **Romans 12:3-5**
    2. Dependable in using our gifts? – **Romans 12:6-8**
       1. Burying talents? – **Matthew 25:26-30** – to the one given one talent who showed himself undependable.
    3. One of the easiest ways of being dependable, and showing that dependability as a member of the church is FAITHFULNESS TO THE ASSEMBLY:
       1. **Hebrews 10:24-25** – are we dependable in our attendance? Can the congregation depend on us to be there?
          1. Consider one another – do you show this consideration, or do you not by failing to attend?
          2. Stir up love and good works – can you be depended on for the edification in the worship? Can the brethren depend on you to agitate them to such obedience to God?
          3. Exhorting – are you dependable for encouragement? Each time a member decides to forsake they show themselves less dependable.
11. Spouses
    1. Mutual dependence of love and respect, leadership and submission.
       1. Submission from the wife – **Ephesians 5:22-24** – husbands have the serious role of spiritual leadership. Submission makes it easier.
          1. Recognition of the weight of the husband’s role?
          2. Understanding that the decisions of the husband are with your best interest in mind?
       2. Love from the husband – **Ephesians 5:25, 28-29** – husbands aren’t to abuse authority. Such is given by God for the good of the home. Can wives depend on their husbands to make decisions that are best for them and the family?
          1. Putting spiritual things first?
          2. Considering the family in decisions before yourself?
       3. Mutual – **Ephesians 5:33**
    2. Dependable wife – **Colossians 3:18**
    3. Dependable husband – **Colossians 3:19**
12. Parents
    1. Dependable to direct children in correct way? – **Proverbs 22:6**
       1. Not confusing lesser things as most important.
       2. Emphasizing the most important matters.
       3. **Proverbs 22:15** – foolishness in a child.
          1. They are immature, and do not understand life.
          2. They certainly DEPEND UPON the guidance and correction of the parent in spiritual matters – HOW ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO SEE LIFE FOR WHAT IT TRULY IS? – **cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13**
    2. Dependable to teach at every opportunity? – **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**
       1. Not making excuses, and putting those matters off for another time.
       2. Dependable to sacrifice time to look out for their spiritual growth – tired from work, etc.
          1. A possible result of failing in these opportunities – **Judges 2:10** (seems very likely that they didn’t know the Lord, not just because of the wicked nations, but negligence of their parents)
          2. These parents were faithful – served God **(v. 7)** – their children did not. Why?
       3. Fathers, are you dependable as the leader God chose in this matter? – **Ephesians 6:4**
          1. NOTE: training – *paideia*; from 3811; tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction. (Strong)
          2. Leads to next point – discipline to train.
    3. Dependable in training? Not simply teaching, but disciplining when necessary to correct bad behavior – **Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15**
       1. The child may not understand, or want this, but it is needed – **Hebrews 12:7-11**
          1. They depend upon you to give them what they need.
          2. WHAT THEY NEED IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY WANT OR UNDERSTAND.
       2. Can God depend on you, and your child depend on you, to trust His ways of parenting as best?
13. Lights to the World
    1. We are God’s tools to shine the light of Himself and His Son in the world. Are we living this way among the world to lead others to Christ?
       1. **Matthew 5:13-16** – let your light shine!
       2. **1 Peter 2:11-12** – maintain integrity before God in the midst of evildoers.
          1. The world should not see you, but Christ – **Galatians 2:20**
          2. This is a conscious decision, to reflect the light of Christ by putting Him on – **Romans 13:11-14** (clothe yourself with Christ)
          3. THE WORLD DEPENDS ON US TO SHOW THEM CHRIST. THEY MAY NOT PICK UP A BIBLE, BUT THEY MAY SEE HIM IN US, THEN INQUIRE.
             1. “We are the only Bible the careless world will read, we are the sinner’s gospel, we are the scoffers’ creed; we are the Lord’s last message given in deed and word, what if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?” (The World’s Bible)
    2. Are you a dependable lightkeeper for God?
       1. Are we scattering everywhere preaching the word? – **Acts 8:4**
       2. We have the truth, we have the light – it is our responsibility to give it to others.
          1. **Mark 16:15** – preach the gospel.
          2. **Matthew 28:18-20** – This is a command from the one with all authority.
       3. “Brightly beams our Father’s mercy from the lighthouse evermore; but to us He gives the keeping of the lights along the shore. Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave! Some poor fainting, struggling seaman, you may rescue, you may save.” (Let The Lower Lights Be Burning)

**Conclusion**

1. We can surely depend upon God, and we would never expect to find Him undependable.
2. God requires us to be dependable as well. Toward Him directly, and in our relationships and duties.
3. Can we say we are dependable like Ruth to Naomi, Johnathan to David, or Timothy to Paul? We can depend on Christ, but can He depend on us?
4. How dependable are we as Christians?