

*Holy Spirit to those who ask him. (NLT)*

## ***In Preparation of Holy Week...***

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." – I CORINTHIANS 13:4-7 (NIV)*

**Lord,**

**Because love is patient...**

*Help me to be slow to judge, but quick to listen. Hesitant to criticize, but eager to encourage, remembering your endless patience with me.*

**Because love is kind...**

*Help my words to be gentle and my actions to be thoughtful. Remind me to smile and to say "Please" and "Thank You" because those little things still mean so much.*

**Because love does not envy or boast, and it is not proud...**

*Help me have a heart that is humble and sees the good in others. May I celebrate and appreciate all that I have and all that I am, as well as doing the same for those around me.*

**Because love is not rude or self-seeking...**

*Help me to speak words that are easy on the ear and on the heart. When I'm tempted to get wrapped up in my own little world, remind me there's a great big world out there full of needs and hurts.*

**Because love is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs...**

*Help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me. When I want to hold onto a grudge, gently help me release it so I can reach out with a hand of love instead.*

**Because love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth...**

*Help me stand up for what is right and good. May I defend the defenseless, and help the helpless. Show me how I can make a difference.*

**Because love always protects and always trusts...**

*Help me to be a refuge for those around me. When the world outside is harsh and cold, may my heart be a place of acceptance and warmth.*

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SERMON NOTES - MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

## **HEALTHY Skepticism**

Petaluma Valley Baptist Church

### **OUR INABILITY TO TRUST \_\_\_\_\_ BLOCKS OUR ABILITY TO FULLY TRUST \_\_\_\_\_**

**John 2:23-25** *Because of the miraculous signs he did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many people were convinced that he was indeed the Messiah. But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew what people were really like. No one needed to tell him about human nature. (NLT)*

**Skepticism: an attitude marked by a tendency to \_\_\_\_\_  
what others claim to be \_\_\_\_\_**

" \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ "

### **4 Key Areas of Healthy Skepticism**

**1. Never Completely Trust Another \_\_\_\_\_**

**Isaiah 2:22** Stop putting your trust in mere humans. They are as frail as breath. How can they be of help to anyone?

**Psalms 118:8-9** It is better to trust the LORD than to put confidence in people. It is better to trust the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

**2. Never Completely Trust a \_\_\_\_\_**

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**1 John 2:26-27** I have written these things to you because you need to be aware of those who want to lead you astray. But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you all things, and what he teaches is true — it is not a lie. So continue in what he has taught you, and continue to live in Christ. (NLT)

**Philippians 1:15** It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. (NLT)

### 3. Never Completely Trust \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 28:26** Trusting oneself is foolish, but those who walk in wisdom are safe. (NLT)

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? (NLT)

**1 Corinthians 4:3-4** I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. My conscience is clear, but that isn't what matters. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide. (NLT)

### 4. Never Completely Trust Your \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark 9:24** The father instantly replied, "I do believe, but help me not to doubt!" (NLT)

**Warning:** Unhealthy skepticism can \_\_\_\_\_ growth and \_\_\_\_\_ development in your life.

## 4 Primary Areas of Unhealthy Skepticism

### 1. A \_\_\_\_\_ of Who \_\_\_\_\_ is (or that He is)

**John 14:9** Philip, don't you even yet know who I am, even after

all the time I have been with you? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! (NLT)

**Romans 1:19-20** For the truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts. From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God. (NLT)

**Exodus 34:6-7** I am the LORD, I am the LORD, the merciful and gracious God. I am slow to anger and rich in unfailing love and faithfulness. I show this unfailing love to many thousands by forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion. (NLT)

**Psalms 86:5** O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask your aid. (NLT)

### 2. A Rejection of \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Timothy 3:7** (People like this are) always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. (NLT)

### 3. A \_\_\_\_\_ Acceptance of the Status \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. A \_\_\_\_\_ Distrust of \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 15:22** Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many counselors bring success. (NLT)

## Closing Scripture:

**Luke 11:11-13** You fathers — if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the