

“THE BLESSINGS OF BOUNDARIES”

Bible Study Lesson – Broken 2 Beautiful

The world tells us that there are no boundaries. You can do what whatever you want to do, say what you want to say, go where you want to go, buy what you want to buy, spend what you want to spend, and be with whomever you want to be with. But is that really God’s perspective? How do you set boundaries? How do you make the most of living? How do you keep your life from going out of bounds? Let’s see if we can discover the “Blessings of Boundaries.”

WHAT IS A BOUNDARY?

Definition

- MW: something that indicates or fixes a limit or extent
- Dictionary.com: indicates a border or limit; greatest possible extent of something

In essence, boundaries are lines that...

- separate the yes from the no
- separate the “I will” versus the “I won’t”
- indicate the now versus the later
- indicate order versus chaos
- distinguish whether to please God or please man
- separate the good from the bad

We do not get to choose whether or not we want to deal with boundaries – they are all around us! As a matter of fact, boundaries can be visible (physical) and invisible (spiritual)

- Visible = property lines (mine vs. yours), highway lanes (my side vs. your side), walls (my room vs. your room), doors (outside vs. inside), skin (me vs. you)
- Invisible = personal space, personal business/feelings, moral standards, time (today vs. tomorrow)

WHERE DO BOUNDARIES COME FROM?

God established boundaries from the beginning of time.

- Creation = heaven vs. earth, land vs. sea, day vs. night (Genesis 1:3-10)

God even has boundaries for Himself – not to limit himself, but to establish who He is.

- What He likes and dislikes, loves and hates
 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*
 - *These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren. (Proverbs 6:16-19)*



- What He thinks and feels
 - *Though the LORD is on high, yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar. (Psalm 138:6)*
- Who He is and is not
 - *And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. (I John 4:16)*
 - *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (I Jn 1:5)*
- What He will and will not allow (the Law)
 - *The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-16) = “Thou Shalt Nots”*
 - *The Law Summarized (Matthew 22:36-40) = “Thou Shalls”*
 - *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “**You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’** On these two commandments hang **all the Law** and the Prophets.”*

God uses boundaries to limit His exposure to sin and unrepentance, and anything else that could violate or destroy His character (which is love). God created us in His image (Gen 1:26), so we too should have boundaries.

WHAT TYPES OF BOUNDARIES EXIST?

1. Physical/Social – of or relating to material things, body; perceptible thru senses

- *As a ring of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks discretion. (Proverbs 11:22)*
- *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27-29)*
- *Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” (I Corinthians 15:33)*
- *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? (II Corinthians 6:14-15)*



2. Mental/Emotional – relating to the emotional & intellectual response to external reality

- *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23)*
- *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. (Philippians 4:8)*
- *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)*
- *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. (II Corinthians 10:4-6)*

3. Spiritual – of or relating to sacred matters; affecting the spirit

- *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:22-24)*
- *Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. (Psalm 24:3-4)*

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I STAY WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES SET FORTH? BLESSINGS!

Good Boundaries –Knew how to say “No”

- Reward = wisdom, interpret visions, promotion in the king’s court (v. 17,20)
- Daniel (Daniel 1:8)
*But Daniel **purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself** with the portion of the king’s delicacies...*
- Reward = Lord was with Joseph, favor, prosperity (v 21)
- Joseph (Genesis 39:7-10)
*And it came to pass after these things that his master’s wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, “Lie with me.” But **he refused and said ...How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**”*



Good Boundaries –Knew how to say “Yes”

- Reward = used by God to save a soul, baptize the Eunuch, and was taken away by the Spirit
- Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)
*Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”...**So he arose and went.**
...Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” **So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him...***
- Reward = became one of the greatest preachers of Christ, wrote over 2/3 of the NT
- Saul on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-7)
*As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. **Then he fell to the ground... trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”***

WHAT HAPPENS IF I VIOLATE THE BOUNDARIES IN PLACE FOR ME?

Bad Boundaries – Should have said “No”

- Consequences = suffer loss (favor, family)
- David’s Adultery (II Samuel 11:1-4)
*And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold... And someone said, **“Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.***

Bad Boundaries – Should have said “Yes”

- Consequences = suffer loss (fellowship with God), forfeit rewards in heaven
- Rich Young Ruler’s Idolatry (Matthew 19:16-24)
*Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”...So He said to him...if you want to enter into life, **keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?”...The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”** Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” **But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.** Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”*

Other consequences



- Delay blessings or forfeit rewards
- Crazy and out of control life
- Suffer loss (family, friends, life)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY BOUNDARIES ARE VIOLATED?

- The enemy will violate your boundaries – he doesn't ever play fair
I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- He has a way of perverting reality...making it seem as if it really is ok to do certain things
 - Deception of Adam and Eve = of every tree in the garden you may freely eat, but do not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil... (Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-6)

WHAT DO BOUNDARIES DO FOR ME?

1. Boundaries are not signs of selfishness, they are signs of stewardship.
 - *Not working extreme overtime at work b/c of other responsibilities at home. (time)*
 - *Not loaning the money when you know you are not in a position to do so. (money)*
2. Boundaries are not intended to hurt others, they are designed to help them.
 - *Limiting our telephone time b/c of our tendency to gossip.*
 - *Limiting our trips to Best Buy and Circuit City b/c of our tendency to buy gadgets.*
 - *Telling a child "no" to a sleepover when he/she has not made good grades.*
 - *Not giving in to the late night cravings for junk food.*
3. Boundaries are not to limit you, they are to limit your exposure to things that could harm you.
 - *Not going to his/her house when you know the condition of your heart. (lust)*
 - *Not going out with old friends b/c you know it could hurt your witness. (company you keep)*

SUMMARY

The enemy will come to deceive us – steal, kill, destroy. But thank God for the entire revelation of this verse. Jesus states in John 9:9-10...

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Keep the boundaries and accept the blessings that come your way. Let Christ be the door that controls what or who comes into your life and what or who leaves out. **Boundaries don't just restrict us from what we can't do, but gives us the freedom to do the things we should do.**

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

