



Boundaries

Proverbs 5:8-14 “Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labors be in the house of a stranger; And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me! I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.”

- The main essence of this passage is boundaries and withdrawing ourselves from compromising situations and environments.

I have come to realize that one of the ways we can stay away from falling and avoid the plots of the enemy is learning to set boundaries.

Call me legalistic if you like, but I’m going to set boundaries. If we just expose ourselves to anything and everything, we will fall by it. **We need to do all we can to protect ourselves from these traps of the enemy and one of the most effective ways is through setting boundaries.**

- A lack of boundaries has caused many to fall into sin and has as a result destroyed lives, families, marriages, jobs, societies, countries, relationships and so forth.**
- We need to learn to create boundaries.** Boundaries could easily save our bacon. No one will set boundaries for you. You have to do it for yourself. You need to set both personal boundaries to **protect your relationships especially relationship with God**, first and then your marriage. It is because you value it and you want to protect it.
- This teaching is designed to stop us from falling into sin by helping us begin to set boundaries.
- Boundaries will help us to walk wisely as we carry out the assignment God has for us in this time on earth.
- Anointings, natural talent, and giftings attract— the good and the ugly. You need to learn to set boundaries.**
 - You can’t wait until you are in a tight spot to set those boundaries. You need to set them now.

- f) Above all, we should start by setting boundaries to protect our relationship with God which in return will protect our marriage and the rest.
 - i) Proverbs 25:16-17 Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it. Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.
- g) **Boundaries protect both parties involved.** The one setting them and the one we are setting them against.
 - i) Boundaries are a good and healthy thing if done well.
 - ii) People will respect you more if you set boundaries.
 - iii) Through boundaries, we are able to set limits in a relationship in a way that is healthy.
 - iv) Boundaries help us practice self-care and self-respect.
- h) A lack of boundaries is one of the reasons for F3—**fall, faint, and fail (F3)**.
- i) We must establish boundaries within our personal life and ministry that would ensure our longevity.
 - i) We need to take seriously necessary preventive measures to avoid the traps of success. Success or failure in ministry comes down to heart issues.

There are two primary types of boundaries:

1. Physical boundaries:

- a) These are the physical lines that you set that will eventually protect your relationship with God.
- b) You still have a body and emotions. A lack of boundaries will cause a strong attraction to the opposite sex.
- c) Know your weakness. Do not put your body or emotions to **the test**. They will disappoint you. **Never never trust your flesh**.
- d) **Because of who you are**, there are certain places you do not want to go, certain people, you don't need in your company and certain things you should not do.
- e) **You need boundaries and disciplines to excel.**

Examples

Marriage:

- i) Do not hang out alone with the opposite sex.
- ii) Don't go out with the opposite sex alone. There may be nothing there, but it is a wrong impression.
- iii) Late phone calls and texts are wrong boundaries.
- iv) Do not counsel the opposite sex without a third person nor a married person without their mate.
- v) Cut off communication with an EX.

Money:

- i) If you know you have financial issues, you don't want a cashier's job.
- ii) You might be born again, and spirit-filled, but your flesh is not. Don't test your flesh.

2. Spiritual Boundaries

- a) These are the divine lines that you spiritually draw that will eventually protect your relationship with God.
- b) In this teaching, I will focus the most on spiritual boundaries because if we have these together, they will help us overcome and avoid many pitfalls.
- c) Most pitfalls are related to a lack of spiritual boundaries, which boil down to relationship with the Lord.
- d) We should value our relationship with God more than anybody—even when they are hurting. Some people have been trapped because they value people and they are compassionate to them.
- e) Some people are so deceived to think that they are so strong or invincible, so they set no boundaries. Soon or later, they fall flat on their faces.

We need a combination of both physical and spiritual boundaries—not either-or.

A. Preparing your heart to seek the Lord.

2 Chronicles 12:14 "And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD."

- This is the number one way to set a boundary.
- Preparing our hearts to seek the Lord is the number one way of setting boundaries.

- This is one of the defining lines between success and failure. Preparing our hearts to seek the Lord is a big deal. We should not take it lightly.
 - If we quit preparing your heart to seek the Lord, our flesh is capable of anything—You name it! ANYTHING!
- a) Renew your mind.
- i) Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

B. What do we think upon? —Watch Your Thoughts!

- a) Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.
- b) Job 31:1 *I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?*
- i) Notice that eyes and think are used interchangeably. This shows that what we look at we will think upon. This underscores the reason why we should not put any wicked thing before our eyes (Psalms 101:2-4). We can't be tempted on things we don't think upon.
- We need to be careful not to allow evil and its appearance to creep in through what we watch and finally our thoughts.
- ii) Proverbs 23:6-7 *Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats: For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.*
- Our life, actions will go in the direction of what we think upon. In the direction of our predominant thought.
 - **To control our actions, we must control what we hear, see and finally what we think upon.**

C. Remove thy Way

Proverbs 5:8-14 “Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled

with thy wealth; and thy labors be in the house of a stranger; And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me! I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.”

- a) We should not flirt with sin. That is not removing ourselves from it. Toying with sin is not a good idea. Those who toy and flirt with it will fall to it soon or later.
 - i) We will get burnt. Proverbs 6:27-28.
 - ii) Sin is not for entertainment. We Should not entertain ourselves with sin and ungodly stuff.
- c) We need to turn off and refute all this junk and garbage. Our heads ad hearts are not garbage cans or dust bins. We should not allow garbage dumping.
- b) A little leaven leavens the whole lump. (Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 1 Corinthians 5:6) and (A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Galatians 5:9)
- c) **Do not put yourself in compromising and tempting situations—Remove yourself.**

D. Enter not, Go not, Avoid it, Pass not by it, Turn from it, and pass away.

Proverbs 4:14-15 *"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."*

- a) **Enter not** into the path of the wicked
- b) **Go not** in the way of the evil men
- c) **Avoid it-** Dismiss it
- d) **Pass not** by it
- e) **Turn from it:** Deviate, do not go near.
- f) **Pass away:** - Stay away.
 - i) This passage of scripture said the same thing in multiple ways repeatedly so that we do not miss it. Which part of this verse do we not understand?
 - ii) This verse is instructing us not to **enter into the path of the wicked, nor go in the way of evil men.**
 - We are instructed to avoid it like a plague. We should endeavor not to even pass close to it, **but rather turn from it and go a different direction.**

- iii) If we do not heed these instructions, we will **fall prey** to these very things that we are being advised and given wisdom against.

E. The “help trap”

- a) Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.
 - i) We are to help others, but not at the expense of us falling. We need to consider ourselves before helping others. If we fall, we are of no help.
 - ii) Most people have become victims to the people they were trying to help because they did not set appropriate boundaries. This is most common in a situation where someone has gone through a difficult moment and in the effort to help console and counsel them, many have been eaten alive—or say they have provided themselves as the hurting person’s dinner.
 - iii) Many emotional ties are built when we are trying to help others. We must set appropriate boundaries to help protect us from the “help trap”

F. Some of my personal boundaries:

- a) If I feel an emotional bound starting to happen with someone else, I withdraw myself. I am not going to feed those emotions.
- b) I do not take an elevator with a female alone. There must be at least three people in the elevator including myself.
- c) I do not go out to eat with another female alone. There has to be a third person or my wife present.
- d) I typically do not give rides to the opposite sex alone, but under certain circumstances, if I do decide to give a ride, I do not give rides to the opposite sex while she is seated in the front passage seat. **She will have to get in the trunk—Just kidding!!** She must be in the back seat. This is one time, not a daily thing. I will also consider paying for her transport fare rather than giving her a ride.
- e) I avoid being alone with the opposite sex in a place that is not a public place.
- f) I do not build too close friendships with the opposite sex.

G. Behave yourself wisely—Set no wicked thing before your eyes.

Psalm 101:2-4 "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person."

- a) Rather than behaving himself foolishly, David purposed to behave himself wisely. This was a decision he had to make.
- b) "*Perfect*" comes from a Hebrew word that means *entire, integrity, truth*. David made a decision to behave himself in a godly manner with integrity and truth, without blemish, complete, sincerely, sound, upright.
- c) This can be achieved by removing wicked and ungodly things before him, hatred of the ways of the wicked, a forward heart, and not knowing the wicked. Many people make an effort to learn and know the wicked and ungodly things, not David! He made a decision not to know nor gain knowledge of evil and wickedness.
- d) We should have nothing to do with evil—and its appearance.
- e) "*Set*" means to "place" David was saying that he was not going to *place* or put anything wicked before his eyes.

H. Sometimes avoiding the appearance of evil is synonymous with avoiding people that could seduce us into evil ways.

We are instructed to avoid them and turn away.

- a) Romans 16:17 "*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*"
- b) 1 Corinthians 5:9 "*I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:*"
- c) Act 15:1, 5 "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."
- d) 2 Timothy 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."
- e) 1 Corinthians 15:33 "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

- f) 2Co 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”

I. Make no provision for the flesh

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfill* the lusts *thereof*.

- a) The word “*provision*” means “*forethought*”. It is through forethought that we supply the flesh to fulfill its desires.
- b) For the flesh to fulfill its lust, it has to be **fed and provided** for. If we do not feed it or provide for it, we will not fulfill its lust.
- c) This further underscores the importance of avoiding and fleeing all appearance, shape or form of evil.
 - We need to watch for what we expose ourselves to lest we make provision for the flesh.

J. Abstain

1 Thessalonians 5:22 “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

- i) It means to refrain, hold oneself off (Strong’s Concordance). It is staying away, keeping away, turning away, but mainly to run away from or to flee from (1 Corinthians 6:8 and 1 Thessalonians 4:4:3)
- ii) If we can take steps to avoid all kinds, forms, and appearance of evil, we can abstain from it.
 - Avoiding is key to refraining. We can’t successfully and continuously refrain from what we do not avoid.
 - This is a choice you have to make. No one can make it for you. We have to choose to abstain from evil and all the appearance of it.
- iii) We can’t overcome what we are **continually exposed to**.
 - There must come a time for us to separate ourselves from certain things in order to have a continual victory and build a momentum of success.
- iv) We need to create an environment that will enable us to live out our victory and minimize temptation.

a) All (any, every, whole)

- i) This is not talking about avoiding or abstaining from *some forms* of evil but **ALL**. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to avoid the appearance of all evil.

b) The appearance of evil.

- i) This is talking about any view, form, kind. Have nothing to do with evil.
- ii) **Evil has an appearance.** Once we see that appearance, we need to start separating ourselves from it. Sometimes evil is veiled, but once we see anything that looks like it, we better separate ourselves lest we are led into it.
- iii) We are to abstain not just from **evil**—but from the **appearance** of all evil.
- iv) If we are truly going to effectively avoid the appearance of evil, we must be willing to prove all things through and by the Word of God. Anything that does not pass the litmus test of the Word of God, must be trashed and shredded.

K. Accountability.

Find an area of your life and get someone to help you remain accountable. This person cannot be anyone but rather people that love you and have your best interest at heart.

No one should be without accountability no matter how high you are in position. You need to submit yourself to someone else.

This will help you create boundaries that will eventually help and protect your relationship with God.

- a) Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.
- b) James 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
- c) Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*?

L. Hatred for evil

One of the best boundaries you can create is developing a **hatred for evil**. If you have a hatred for evil, you can spot it at a distance and hide (Proverbs 22:3; 27:12). This will protect you from many things and many places.

- a) Psalm 97:10 Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.
 - b) Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.
 - c) Amos 5:15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.
- If you are born again, you have the Spirit of self-control right inside of you. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, you can set boundaries and He will help you maintain those healthy boundaries.

You can be the most mature believer all around, but if you do not set boundaries, you are headed for trouble—real fast.