

## Boundaries

### Developing Boundaries

October 16, 2016 / Dan Solofra

#### Instructions for Christian Living

<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the **futility of their thinking**. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. <sup>25</sup>

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:17-27, NIV

<sup>17</sup> So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the **futility of their thinking**. Ephesians 4:17, NIV

We don't just \_\_\_\_\_ boundaries set by others.

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Some \_\_\_\_\_ boundaries because of lost sensitivity. Instead of practicing restraint, they practice \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>20</sup> That, however, is not the way of life you learned <sup>21</sup> when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. Ephesians 4:20-21, NIV

Developing boundaries is a \_\_\_\_\_ process and is something we need to \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24, NIV

I will develop godly boundaries that \_\_\_\_\_ sinful behavior and \_\_\_\_\_ behavior that reflects our faith relationship with Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body

<sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:25-27, NIV

\_\_\_\_\_ is a boundary that encourages \_\_\_\_\_ and assures us that the \_\_\_\_\_ will have no place in our hearts.

#### MEMORY VERSE

<sup>24</sup>... put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24, NIV

**Bottom line:** I will develop boundaries that reflect my faith relationship with Jesus. I will work to eliminate all harmful, sinful behavior and pursue loving, honest relationships.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.



## Developing Boundaries | October 16-22

**Getting Started:** What is one kind of car that you would NEVER want to own? Why?

**Back to Sunday:**

Why will a discussion of boundaries for a Christian always start with a discussion of his/her relationship with Jesus?

**Explain:** Some boundaries will limit my actions; other boundaries will increase my activity.

**Digging Deeper:**

**Read: 1 John 1:1-4:** What are some of the reasons that the Apostle John felt compelled to write this letter?

Explain how the thoughts and truths of verses 1-4 helped John develop and “expand” a boundary.

**Read: 1 John 1:5-7:** What does it mean to walk in the light?

Why is it inconsistent for someone to say, “I am a Christian” and have a lifestyle where they walk in the darkness of sin?

**Read: 1 John 1:8-10** Throughout the pages of the Bible God’s people are encouraged to confess sin. Why is confession so important in the daily life of a Christian?

Rationalism is when we explain why a sin is really not our fault. Give an example of rationalizing sinful behavior and explain why it is not truly confessing sin.

Minimizing is when we make a sin seem like no big deal. Give an example of minimizing a sin and explain why it is not truly confessing sin.

Why does a Christian welcome the opportunity to confess sin?

**Taking it Home**

Alan and Kate always seem to argue about money and they are frustrated. Tom suggests setting spending boundaries. Do you think it will help? Why or why not?

**Agree or Disagree** Setting a boundary is really just thinking about a situation before it happens so that you respond in a way that you truly want to.

What is one boundary you have recently expanded or would like to expand that is a result of your relationship with Jesus?

**Close with prayer**