

Boundaries

Destroying Boundary Myths

October 23, 2016 / Dan Solofra

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

³ For **by the grace given** me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, **in accordance with the faith** God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

⁶ We have different gifts, **according to the grace given to each** of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy **in accordance with your faith**; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. **Romans 12:3-8, NIV**

¹⁰ **But by the grace of God I am what I am**, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. **1 Corinthians 15:10, NIV**

All that I _____, all that I _____, and all that I _____ are gifts of God's amazing grace.

³ For **by the grace given** me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with **sober judgment, in accordance with the faith** God has distributed to each of you. **Romans 12:3, NIV**

Tools for proper boundary drawing include:

_____,
_____,
_____, _____, and _____.

Boundary Myth #1 - People who draw boundaries think that they are _____ than everyone else.

⁴ For just as each of us has **one body with many members**, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **Romans 12:4-5, NIV**

In the church there will always be a _____ between being _____ and being _____.

Boundary Myth #2 - Drawing boundaries means I don't _____ if I _____ others.

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God gives us the _____, _____, and _____ to serve in a meaningful way in his kingdom.

Boundary Myth #3 - I have to say "_____" if someone asks me to serve at _____.

Boundary Myth #4 - Others have to say "_____" if I ask them to help me.

Boundary Myth #5 - Drawing boundaries is going to cause me a great deal of _____.

MEMORY VERSE

⁶ We have different gifts, **according to the grace given to each** of us. **Romans 12:6^a, NIV**

Bottom line: We live with an abundant supply of God's grace and faith. We will set boundaries that help us to use the gifts that God gives us to His glory.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.



Destroying Boundary Myths | 10/23-10/29

Getting Started: What is your favorite Urban Legend? (use your phone to refresh your memory!)

Back to Sunday: With which myth that we discussed on Sunday are you most likely to struggle?

Divide into groups of two or three and discuss the myth (listed below) that is most challenging to you.

Share your results with the group.

1. People who draw boundaries think that they better than everyone else.
2. Drawing boundaries means I don't care if I hurt others.
3. I have to say "yes" if someone asks me to serve at church.
4. Others have to say "yes" if I ask them to help me.
5. Drawing boundaries is going to cause me a great deal of guilt.

Digging Deeper:

Read 1 John 2:1-2 - Why are these words so relevant for the everyday life of a Christian?

What does it mean that Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for sin?

What is the significance of the words, "Not only for our sins, but the sins of the entire world"?

Read 1 John 2:3-6 These words might seem a little redundant. In 1 John he also encouraged the people to "walk in the light".

Why do you think John repeats this truth again and even calls someone who claims to believe in Jesus and yet lives an impure life a LIAR?

Why are these words incriminating in the life of a Christian? What will they lead us to do?

Read 1 John 2:7-11 Why is totally unfathomable that a Christian would hate someone?

Read 1 John 2:15-17 Do these words contradict what is written in the previous verses? (1 John 2:7-11) Explain your answer.

Taking it home

Ralph doesn't like it when people ask him to do things at church and he has to say "No". He says it makes him feel guilty. How would you help Ralph make boundaries guided by grace and not by guilt?

Phil is upset that Lee isn't going to help with Trunk or Treat this year. Phil feels Lee never even gave him a good excuse why he won't help. What would you say to Phil? To Lee?

Justin says that Sunday morning is family time. The family will spend one Sunday a month at church and the rest doing family bonding events. When encouraged to rethink his church attendance, Justin says, "Don't judge my boundary!" How would you respond?

Close with Prayer