

Boundaries

Deploying Boundaries

October 30, 2016 / Jeff Gunn

Conflict Resolution: 5 Possible Outcomes

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved...
Colossians 3:12a, NIV

Through Christ, I'm firmly in the circle of God's _____.
Therefore, I can deploy boundaries with greater _____.

...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **Colossians 3:12b-14, NIV**

God is full of _____ and _____ toward me, so I can be _____ and _____ in deploying boundaries.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be **thankful**. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with **gratitude** in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:15-17, NIV**

When Christ is the _____ of my life, I deploy boundaries from a spiritual foundation of:

- _____, _____ and godly _____.

Not from an unspiritual foundation of:

- _____, _____ or a desire for _____.

¹⁸ **Wives**, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ **Husbands**, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

²⁰ **Children**, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ **Fathers**, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

²² **Slaves**, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. ¹ **Masters**, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven. **Colossians 3:18-4:1, NIV**

When I seek to honor and serve _____ alone, I'm able to deploy my boundaries with _____, respecting _____ & respecting _____. That leads to _____ solutions!

² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful...

⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:2,6, NIV

MEMORY VERSE

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17, NIV**

Bottom line: Grateful within the circle of Jesus' acceptance and affirmation, I deploy boundaries graciously and wisely.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.



Deploying Boundaries | 10/30 – 11/5

Getting Started: What was your biggest waste of time in the last week?

Back to Sunday:

Refresher: Remind each other what it means to be in a win/win, win/lose, lose/win and lose/lose scenario.

Problem Solve: James and Michelle both work. They are both tired when they get home, but need to make supper and neither wants to do it. How can they draw a boundary that would result in a lose/lose, win/lose, lose/win and win/win outcome?

Digging Deeper: Read 1 John Chapter 3.

Read this chapter out loud, taking turns reading.

Highlight one or two verses or main thoughts that stick out to you as you read.

Share the thoughts/verses you highlighted with the group and why they stuck out to you.

Verses 1 - In these verses our identity as children of God is reinforced. Why is the word lavish a great word to use for God's love for us?

Verse 4 – In what way is sin lawlessness? Why does the sinful nature want lawlessness?

Verse 12 - Unbelievers will hate believers because the good behavior of believers exposes the sinful behavior of unbelievers. How does this still happen today? How does this illustrate the truth that there will those who don't like my boundaries even though the boundaries I draw are good and right?

Verse 15 – Brad doesn't like Dan. Is he guilty of murder?

Verse 16-18 – How does Jesus truly show us the nature of love in his payment for sin?

Verse 20 – God's love and forgiveness trumps our guilty conscience. At a time like this our hearts condemn us and God forgives us. How does a person get their feelings in line with God's love and forgiveness?

Taking It Home:

In your life how do you normally draw boundaries? Are you a win/win, lose /win, win lose or lose/lose person? How does being the type of person you are effect your boundaries and relationships?

For boundaries do you tend to be someone who makes very clear visible boundaries or someone who has more general generic boundaries? What is the benefit and weakness of your approach to boundaries?

Close with Prayer: