

BOUNDARIES AND GOD

Gleanings and Extracts from
Cloud and Townsend's "Boundaries"
LYSA TERKEURST'S "Boundaries and Goodbyes"

Page 1 of 43

(1) The concept of boundaries comes from the very nature of God.

- A. God is the distinct Person, separate from us and creation.
- B. The Trinity are distinct persons with their own boundaries.
- C. He sets limits what He allows into His presence. He confronts sin and allows consequences. He guards His House and He does not allow evil to go in.

Page 3 of 43

(Pro. 4:23) Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Issues to be truth-telling, responsible, free and loving God and people.

(Pro. 4:23) Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

It is when to say Yes
and how to say No,
to take control of my life.

Page 2 of 43

(2) Spiritual boundaries like those that are physical, define that I am the owner of my life and my responsibilities.

- A. They define what is me and what is not me.

(Pro. 14:10) The heart knows his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

- B. I am responsible to others and for myself.

(Gal. 6:2) Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

(Gal. 6:5) For every man shall bear his own burden (daily toil).

Page 4 of 43

(2) Spiritual boundaries like those that are physical, define that I am the owner of my life and my responsibilities.

Self-control over my body,
Feelings of compassion,
thoughts (love God with my mind)
beliefs (commands of God),
behaviour
and resources.

INTRODUCTION

(3) The Gospel is of reconciliation to bring us into oneness with God (Jn. 17:20-23), and into His image (Rom. 8:29); two parties in unity yet with distinct identities.

(Col. 1:19,20) *For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell;*

And, having made peace through the Blood of His Cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

INTRODUCTION

(1) The Bible is more than just rules, principles and stories. It is the living Book about relationship of God to people, people to God and people to one another.

(2) The two greatest commandments: Love God and people as ourselves.

(Matt. 22:37-39) *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

(1) GOD RESPECTS OUR BOUNDARIES

A. He leaves us to work for do that only we can do.

1. He allows us to experience painful consequences so that we would change.

(Phil. 2:12,13) *Wherefore, my beloved, ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

(Ps. 119:67) *Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Thy Word.*

(1) GOD RESPECTS OUR BOUNDARIES

- A. He leaves us to work for do that only we can do. *(continued)*
2. He takes no pleasure in our destruction.
 3. The truth that we are sinners is painfully with us to make us humble and make us watchful.
(2 Pet. 3:9) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

(1) GOD RESPECTS OUR BOUNDARIES

- B. He respects our “no”.
1. He allows it and the consequences of choices.
 2. My greatest sin is that I do not want to be a sinner.
*(Lk. 15:18-19) I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,
And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.*

(1) GOD RESPECTS OUR BOUNDARIES

- A. He leaves us to work for do that only we can do. *(continued)*
4. At the same time, He wants us to work it out and to learn from our mistakes and grow to be like Jesus (Rom. 8:29).
(Is. 1:18) Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

(1) GOD RESPECTS OUR BOUNDARIES

- B. He respects our “no”. *(continued)*
3. Boundaries must be owned and exposed so that God and we can deal with the problems (Matt. 21:28- 31 – two sons called into vineyard).
(Ps. 51:6) Behold, Thou desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.
 4. When we own what is within us, God can transform it with His grace and love (2 Cor. 12:9).
(2 Cor. 12:9) And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

(2) WE NEED TO RESPECT HIS BOUNDARIES

A. When He makes choices or says “no”, that is His right, His freedom.

1. Our childish entitlement gets us dissatisfied with God the same way that we are dissatisfied with others.

(Dan. 4:35) *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou?*

(2) WE NEED TO RESPECT HIS BOUNDARIES

A. When He makes choices or says “no”, that is His right, His freedom. *(continued)*

3. Paul accepted God’s sovereignty and embraced His Presence. (2 Cor. 12:8,9) *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me

(2) WE NEED TO RESPECT HIS BOUNDARIES

A. When He makes choices or says “no”, that is His right, His freedom. *(continued)*

2. God is free from us and makes His choice out of love (Jn. 3:16).

(Jer. 31:3) *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

(Heb. 12:6) *For whom the Lord loves, He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.*

(2) WE NEED TO RESPECT HIS BOUNDARIES

A. When He makes choices or says “no”, that is His right, His freedom. *(continued)*

4. Jesus was perfected through His suffering and thus became the Source of eternal salvation.

(Heb. 5:7-9) *Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared;*

Though He were Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered;

And being made perfect, He became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him;

(2) WE NEED TO RESPECT HIS BOUNDARIES

4. Jesus was perfected through His suffering and thus became the Source of eternal salvation. *(continued)*

So was Joseph to become the savior.

(Gen. 50:20) *But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive .*

(2) WE NEED TO RESPECT HIS BOUNDARIES

- B. However, in a relationship, God does not want us to be passive. *(continued)*

3. The parables on prayer call on persuasion.

(Lk. 11:8) *I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needs.*

(Lk. 11:9) *And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

(2) WE NEED TO RESPECT HIS BOUNDARIES

- B. However, in a relationship, God does not want us to be passive.

1. As we make our feelings and desire known, God responds.

(Ps. 145:19) *He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him : He also will hear their cry, and will save them.*

2. Abraham, the friend of God, tried to influence God.

(Gen. 18:31-32) *And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.*

(3) GOD RESPECTS HIS OWN BOUNDARIES

- A. God is the ultimate responsibility taker. If we cause Him pain, He takes responsibility for it and takes care of Himself.

- B. The parable of the wedding banquet shows God taking responsibility (Matt. 22:1-14).

(Matt. 22:8,9) *Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.*

Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

(3) GOD RESPECTS HIS OWN BOUNDARIES

- C. Whenever He has suffered enough, He respects His own property, His heart, enough to do something to make it better.
(Ps. 106:15) *And He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.*
(Rom. 11:25) *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*

(3) GOD RESPECTS HIS OWN BOUNDARIES

- E. We are warned of casting pearls before swine.
(Matt. 7:6) *Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.*
(Lk. 9:5) *And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.*

(3) GOD RESPECTS HIS OWN BOUNDARIES

- D. When we are hurting, we take responsibility for the hurt and make appropriate moves to make things better.
(Heb. 12:1,2) *Wherefore ... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*
Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the Right Hand of the throne of God.

(3) GOD RESPECTS HIS OWN BOUNDARIES

- F. When we do our work and God does His, we will find enough strength and wisdom in a real relationship with our Creator.
(Lk. 1:37) *For with God nothing shall be impossible.*
(Jer. 33:3) *Call unto Me, and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you know not.*

SUMMARY

- (1) Christianity is about relationship.
- (2) God respects our boundaries.
- (3) We need to respect his boundaries.
- (4) God respects his own boundaries.

GOD'S IDEA

- (1) God established the entire universe using boundaries to separate light from darkness, the sea from the dry land, the earth from the heavens. Where there was no form, God created visible distinction to help us see clearly between chaos and order (Gen. 1).
- (2) God gives instructions for the clean and unclean.
(Lev 10:10) And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;
(Lev 7:21) Moreover the soul that shall touch any unclean thing, as the uncleanness of man, or any unclean beast, or any abominable unclean thing, and eat of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which pertain unto the LORD, even that soul shall be cut off from his people.

REFLECTIONS

- (1) Do I love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength (Mk. 12:30)?
- (2) Lord, pour out Your love in and through me to love You and others (Rom. 5:5).

JESUS AND BOUNDARIES

- (1) Jesus laid down His life for sinners. But it wasn't so they could keep sinning. (1 John 3:9).
 - A. It was for a holy purpose leading to wholeness, healing, and salvation of their souls. Jesus didn't enable people. Jesus didn't beg people. Jesus didn't accept excuses for sin or let people off the hook because they were mostly good.
 - B. No, He instructed them to leave their lives of sin. (The woman He forgave and rescued from getting stoned — John 8.) He called out the Pharisees for their harsh, demeaning, and judgmental attitudes.
 - C. He informed the rich young ruler to give up what was controlling him and holding him back (Matthew 19).
 - D. Jesus tended to His need to be alone with the Father even when the crowds had needs and demands of Him (Luke 5).

JESUS' AND BOUNDARIES

- (2) Jesus walking away (Matt. 8:28-9:1)
- A. This crowd could have marveled at the power of Jesus. They could have fallen on their faces and worshiped the Lord of glory. Instead, they asked Him to leave their region.
 - B. Why do you think they responded this way? How did Jesus respond to this request and why do you think He responded this way?
 - C. The hearts of some people were not changed by the actual Messiah when He walked on this earth... so who are we to think that our efforts can fix every broken person we encounter?

JESUS' CHURCH

- (2) Discipline and Restoration
- A. (1Co 5:4,5) *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*
 - B. (2Co 2:7,8) *So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.*

JESUS' CHURCH

- (1) Dealing with conflicts
- (Mat 18:15-17) Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.*
- But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*
- And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

JESUS' CHURCH

- (3) Call for Separation
- A. (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?*
 - B. (2Co 6:17,18) *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

LOVE (by Lysa)

- (1) We can't enable bad behavior and call it love.
- (2) Love must honor God to experience the fullness and the freedom of the sweetest connection between two humans.
- (3) Boundaries protect the right kind of love and help prevent dysfunction from destroying that love.
- (4) Love should be what draws us together not what tears us apart
- (5) Setting boundaries from a place of love provides an opportunity for relationships to grow deeply because true connection thrives within the safety of health and honesty.
- (6) When we're hurt, good boundaries and goodbyes help us to not get stuck in a perpetual state of living hurt.

TRUST (by Lysa)

- (1) You cannot build trust that keeps getting broken.
- (2) We must not confuse the good commands to love and forgive with the bad realities of enabling and covering up things that are not honoring to God.
- (3) Health cannot bond with unhealth.
- (4) All relationships can be difficult at times, but they should not be destructive to our well-being.
- (5) Boundaries aren't just a good idea, they are a God idea.
- (6) Where there is an abundance of chaos, there is usually a lack of good boundaries.
- (7) It's not unchristian to require people to treat you in healthy ways

LOVE

Lord, the greatest desire of my heart is to love and treasure others the way You treasure us.

But honestly, sometimes these hard relationship dynamics make it incredibly difficult to discern what is truly loving.

I ask that You guide me and help me to walk in Your ways, not mine.

Show me how to approach my relationships with both compassion and a healthy commitment to reality so I am in alignment with You.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

TRUST

Heavenly Father, when the person who hurts me doesn't see the heartbreak, tears, or emotions they are causing, I know You do.

You remind me that I am seen and loved. I am not walking alone.

As I start the journey of discovering how boundaries are not just a human idea, but Your idea, I know You will guide me every step of the way.

Keep my heart tender and humble while at the same time steadfast and open to all You reveal to me. Continue to show me what You have for me personally in the days ahead.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

RELATIONSHIPS (by Lysa)

- (1) Love can be unconditional but relational access never should be.
- (2) Unchecked misuse of a relationship can quickly turn into abuse in a relationship.
- (3) Like God, we must require from people the responsibility necessary to grant the amount of access we allow them to have in our lives.
- (4) People who are irresponsible with our hearts should not be granted great access to our hearts.

RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus, we want to be wide open to those who are safe and responsible with the access we've given them.

We also want to have the wisdom to know when to close the gate and not give access to ourselves when someone has consistently not been safe for us.

Help us to know when to wisely say no and when to bravely say yes.

Help us as we practice self-control and smart boundaries so that we can be healthy.

We love You and we thank You.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

RELATIONSHIPS

My Heavenly Father, as I process the relationships that have caused hurt in my life, keep my heart turned toward You,

Remind me that boundaries are meant to protect intimacy, not decimate it.

Father, I hand You my deepest fears and anxieties because of my difficult relationships.

I trust You to lead me with clarity in the right direction.

Thank You for everything You're revealing to me personally right now.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

GOODBYES

(1) When should a goodbye be considered?

- A. When the other person has been unfaithful and is unrepentant... especially when there is a cycle of unfaithfulness
- B. When there's a pattern of lying, omitting (big danger), and gaslighting
- C. When the other person is consistently rude, disrespectful, abusive verbally and emotionally (or children are being treated that way)
- D. When there is active addiction

GOODBYES

Jesus, this is hard for us. Goodbyes are painful.

We come to You with sincerely wanting to honour You and love others well even in cases of “sharp disagreement”.

Help us to behave in right ways especially when things go haywire in our relationships.

Help us in our grief when boundaries are broken and we have to consider a change in access to us.

Help us to not allow bitterness or hatred to creep in.

Help us to radiate goodwill and blessing to those with whom we have an unsustainable relationship.

Help us to be wise, safe, and healthy. We love You.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Email: gohsengfong@hotmail.com

gohsengfong@yahoo.com

WhatsApp: +65-98207783

Website: www.faithatworkfellowship.org

ASSIGNMENTS

- (1) Please go through the audio twice and share three blessings that you have received. Be specific and in detail. What are the blessings? Why are you blessed? How do you apply them to stretch and grow?
- (2) Please share three ways how you can use the teaching in your ministry. Please give examples of the issues and your plans to resolve them and to grow. Use the what, why, when, who, where and how you will be sharing with others. Think through and be specific.