

Why Biblical Boundaries Are Important

Message 1 of 4 in the series: "Boundaries"

Boundaries = dividing lines that clearly define our identities, responsibilities, and privileges. Boundaries help us manage our lives and maintain healthy relationships.

A. Five reasons why Biblical boundaries are important:

1. God, who created us in His image, has always set and honored boundaries.

"Then the Lord God said, 'Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!' So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. **And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.**" Genesis 3:22-24 (NLT)

"Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, **he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.**" Colossians 1:22 (NLT)

2. Biblical boundaries are essential for the development of self-control which the Holy Spirit seeks to manifest in our character.

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and **self-control.**" Galatians 5:22-23a (NLT)

3. Biblical boundaries help us identify when to say "Yes" and when to say "No" so we can live godly lives.

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. **It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,** while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good." Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)

4. Biblical boundaries keep us focused on pleasing God rather than people.

"Obviously, **I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God.** If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant." Galatians 1:10 (NLT)

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: 'Everyone is looking for you!' Jesus replied, '**Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.**'" Mark 1:35-38 (NIV)

5. Biblical boundaries will help us take responsibility for our lives so we can be useful and productive in carrying out the work that God has planned for us.

"Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and **you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct.**" Galatians 6:4-5 (NLT)

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, **so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**" Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

B. Establishing healthy Biblical boundaries requires wisdom.

Wisdom = "khokmaw" (OT Hebrew) = skill = making the right choices at the right time, applied knowledge

"Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have **filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise** in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze. **He is skilled** in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft! ...Moreover, **I have given special skill** to all the gifted craftsmen so they can make all the things I have commanded you to make." Exodus 31:1-6 (NLT)

1. We gain wisdom from experience.

“The glory of the young is their strength; the **gray hair of experience** is the splendor of the old.”
Proverbs 20:29 (NLT)

“My suffering was good for me, for **it taught me** to pay attention to your decrees.” Psalm 119:71 (NLT)

2. We gain wisdom from others.

“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with **many advisers** they succeed.” Proverbs 15:22 (NIV)

“**Walk with the wise and become wise**, for a companion of fools suffers harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

3. We gain wisdom from God.

“Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God. **For the Lord grants wisdom!** From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest... Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go. For **wisdom will enter your heart**, and knowledge will fill you with joy. Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe.” Proverbs 2:3-11 (NLT)

“**Your word is a lamp** to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

Life Application: If we ask God to help us set Biblical boundaries, we must expect Him to come through. “**If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God**, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt**, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.” James 1:5-8 (NIV)

Life Application: It’s never too late to embrace Biblical boundaries. “Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery! Replace the evil years with good.” Psalm 90:15 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Why do you think many people in our culture have a hard time establishing Biblical boundaries in their home, workplace, school, etc.?
2. Why do you think many people in our culture object to Biblical boundaries being set up anywhere?
3. Discuss the following 5 reasons Biblical boundaries are important:
 - God, who created us in His image, has always set and honored boundaries. (Genesis 3:22-24, Colossians 1:22, John 14:6)
 - Biblical boundaries are essential for the development of self-control which the Holy Spirit seeks to manifest in our character. (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - Biblical boundaries help us identify when to say “Yes” and when to say “No” so we can live godly lives. (Titus 2:11-14)
 - Biblical boundaries keep us focused on pleasing God rather than people. (Galatians 1:10, Mark 1:35-38)
 - Biblical boundaries will help us take responsibility for our lives so we can be useful and productive in carrying out the work that God has planned for us. (Galatians 6:4-5, Ephesians 2:10)
4. In Exodus 31:1-6, God tells Moses that He has given special wisdom/skill to the craftsmen in charge of making the Ark of the Covenant and other sacred objects necessary for the Israelites to worship Him. Do you think it makes sense that the OT Hebrew word for “wisdom” could also be translated “skill”? In what ways are wise people like skilled artisans/athletes?
5. Which of the following three ways of gaining wisdom have you experienced most often?
 - We gain wisdom from experience. (Proverbs 20:29, Psalm 119:71)
 - We gain wisdom from others. (Proverbs 15:22, Proverbs 13:20)
 - We gain wisdom from God. (Proverbs 2:3-11, James 1:5-8)
6. Why do you think establishing Biblical boundaries requires wisdom?
7. Is it true that it’s never too late to embrace Biblical boundaries? (Psalm 90:15)