

Marriage



MARRIAGE PART 26 - BOUNDARIES

No matter what the relationship is, every relationship needs to have clear and appropriate boundaries associated with it. Boundaries in any relationship help protect both parties and set clear expectations of how the relationship will flow and function. Clear boundaries bring life to any relationship and are put in place, so the relationship can thrive.

Boundaries are not there to restrict life but to release life. It's no different to our relationship with God. God has given us clear boundaries to live by and all for the purpose of life. If He is the Creator and I am the creation, and He has created clear boundaries for life, I would be a fool not to adhere to them.

Genesis 2:16-17 "The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.""

We can clearly see from this passage that God gave Adam a clear boundary for the purpose of life and not death. God warns Adam about the consequence of not keeping this life-giving boundary. You can't get any more serious than death.

We see in Genesis 3 the serpent brings God's boundary into question by suggesting to Eve another boundary.

Genesis 3:2-5 "The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Another word for a boundary is a conclusion. God gives His conclusion, and the serpent gives his. We must not let others define our boundary or our conclusion, when the Father has already given us His.

A relationship with boundaries is a life-giving relationship. A relationship without boundaries becomes life draining, drawing life out and away from the relationship, as opposed to giving life to the relationship.

Without boundaries people can get hurt, abused and experience a very real reality of feeling used and taken advantage of. Along with these negative consequences, co-dependency can be a fruit of a lack of boundaries. Instead of being interdependent on God, we become co-dependent on one another, and this becomes very toxic and life draining as opposed to life giving.

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Adherence to clear and precise boundaries can give the appearance of a lack of love, when in fact the lack of boundaries exposes the absence of love. Giving people what they want instead of what they need is not love. By doing so we keep people in bondage which certainly is not love.

The ability to say NO is a powerful tool and one we must all learn to wield wisely. For us to be able to say no, we must first have been set free from humanity, regardless of who that 'humanity' may be. Saying NO to those we are closest to can be difficult, but for the wellbeing of everyone it is essential we do so when appropriate.

Clear boundaries are a must in every relationship, so I strongly urge you to have them in your relationship with one another.

QUESTIONS

1. Why are boundaries such a positive and essential thing in our lives?
2. How many boundaries do you currently have in your relationship?
3. What are the negative consequences of not having boundaries with people?
4. Why does God set clear boundaries for His people?

Watch the accompanying You Tube videos here: https://youtu.be/iLCA5Y_U4bQ