

Boundary Blessings and Boo-Boos¹

As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. “Master, don’t you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand.” The Master said, “Martha, dear Martha, you’re fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it’s the main course, and won’t be taken from her.”
 Luke 10:38–42, *The Message*

Functional boundaries – our ability to do the work set before us (includes planning, following through, competency, and completion)

Relational boundaries – ability to speak truth to others in our hut, community, and fringe

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

Does NOT mean: the way we, the parents, think he/she should go!

Does mean: studying the child, and facilitating him/her becoming his/her true, God-created identity.

¹ For a more detailed look at these concepts, consider picking up any of the books written by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend on boundaries. Much of the information provided in this series comes from their material.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:6-8 NIV

Big Boo-Boos

- Withdrawal of love.
- Criticism and/or hostile response to boundary setting.
- Over control.
- Lack of limits.
- Inconsistent limits.
- Trauma.
- Personality.
- Sin.

The Results

- Compliant – say “yes” to the bad
- Avoidant – say “no” to the good
- Controller – no respect for others’ boundaries
- Nonresponsive – do not hear the needs of others

Next week, tune in for a discussion of the building blocks for better boundaries: Bonding, Separation and Individuation, Hatching, Practicing, and Rapprochement.