

Boundary – More Basics

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?" He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?" He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself." "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live." Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?" Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man. "A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.' "What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?" "The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded. Jesus said, "Go and do the same." Luke 10: 25-37, The Message

Love GOD, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! Deuteronomy 6:5, The Message

Envy*

Envy defines “good” as “what I do not possess” and hates the good that I have..

Envy is a self perpetuating cycle. Boundary-less people feel empty and unfulfilled.

Activity*

Many times we have boundary problems because we lack initiative—the God given ability to push ourselves into life.

Evil is an active force and passivity can be a ally of evil by not pushing against it.

God will match our efforts, but he will never do our work for us. That would be an invasion of our boundaries.

God's grace covers failure, but it cannot cover passivity. Failing to try will have no good result.

Exposure*

The law of Exposure says that your boundaries need to be made visible to others and communicated to them in relationship.

We have many boundary problems because of relational fears. The irony is that when the boundaries are not expressed or visible then relationships suffer.

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

If our boundaries are not communicated and exposed directly, they will be communicated indirectly or through manipulation.

*Cloud and Townsend book on Boundaries pages 99-105.

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