

God Boundaries

Hebrews 12:1-6

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off **everything that hinders** and the **sin that so easily entangles**. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you completely forgotten this **word of encouragement** that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
(NKJV - Do not despise the chastening of the Lord)
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

6

because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

Vs. 1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off **everything that hinders** (*NKJV - lay aside every weight*) and the **sin that so easily entangles**. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

There are things that may not be sin, but are merely hindrances or added weight, that can keep us from running effectively the race God has for us.

1 Corinthians 10:23

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

There are things that Hinder...

- Hinderances slow you down

There are sins that Entangle...

- NKJV - Ensnares: catch or trap as with a net
- Entanglements are meant to stop you
- Meant to prevent you from running the race marked out for you...

The word of God says throw off

- every hindrance or weight...
- and every sins that entangle...
- and vs. 2...

Vs. 2

fixing your eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

“The Greek word for ‘fix your eyes’ is a much fuller word than we can find in the English language. It has a preposition which indicates turning the look away from everything else. You are to look from all besides to Jesus. Fix not thy gaze upon the cloud of witnesses; they will hinder thee if they take away thine eye from Jesus. Look not on the weights and the besetting sin-these thou hast laid aside; look away from them. Do not even look upon the race-course, or the competitors, but look to Jesus and so start in the race.”

(Spurgeon)

Vs. 3

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

The Bible says consider him who endured... so you may be able to endure...

He endured the cross
Scorning it's shame
He endured opposition from sinners
For the Joy set before him...
There is one remedy for the weary soul... His name is Jesus
Therefore we fix our eyes on Jesus!

Vs. 5,6

5 and have you completely forgotten this **word of encouragement...**

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
(NKJV - Do not despise the chastening of the Lord)
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

6

because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

Chastening:

- Chastisement; the cultivation of mind and morals.
- Instruction which aims at increasing virtue
- nurture, instruction, correcting mistakes and curbing passions.

Curb: boundary, restriction, check, or rein

This is a **Word of Encouragement**

The Lord Disciplines...

He Chastens...

So don't loose heart...

He does this because he loves you...

Curb: restriction, check, limitation or rein

If God is putting Curbs in your life it's because he loves you!!!

1 Corinthians 8

1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But **knowledge puffs up while love builds up.** 2 Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. 3 But whoever loves God is known by God.

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9 **Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block** to the weak. 10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 **When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.** 13 **Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.**

- Paul here is answering a question from the early believers in Corinth...
Now about food sacrificed to idols:

The meat offered on pagan altars was usually divided into three portions. One portion was burnt in honor of the god, one portion was given to the worshipper to take home and eat, and the third portion was given to the priest. If the priest didn't want to eat his portion, he sold it at the temple restaurant or meat market.

The meat served and sold at the temple was generally cheaper. Then, as well as now, people loved a bargain (including Christians).

The issue raised many questions for the Corinthian Christians: Can we eat meat purchased at the temple meat market? What if we are served meat purchased at the temple meat market when we are guests in someone's home? Can a Christian eat at the restaurant at the pagan temple?

Paul first talks about the principles of knowledge puffs up while love builds up.. Christian behavior is founded on love, not knowledge; the goal of the Christian life is not knowledge, but love.

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat: Paul makes the principle clear. Our actions can never be based *only* on what we know to be right for ourselves. We also need to consider what is right towards our brothers and sisters in Jesus.

It is easy for a Christian to say, “I answer to God and God alone” and to ignore his brother or sister. It is true we will answer to God and God alone, but we will answer to God for how we have treated our brother or sister.

- God sets up Curbs for you
- God sets up Curbs for me
- That is the intimate work of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives...

- May our Christian liberties never create a hinderance
- Or an entanglement
- Or a stumbling block for another believer...
- May we continue to always be motivated by love...

Not bound to legalism which leads to Religious Pride
But Sensitive to the Boundaries God has placed in each one of our lives