



#SHARK SERIES

PART 2: DON'T BE A CHUM BAG

Everyone deals with sharks. The question isn't if, but when. To make it out of the water, we've got to know what to look for; we've got to identify the dangers before we face the attacks. The people closest to you will hands down be your greatest spiritual assets or your worst spiritual curse. Those you spend the most time with can propel you closer to God, or can corrupt your good intentions and rob you of the blessings God wants to pour out on you.

BIG IDEA: **Don't be a chum bag—hanging out with baitfish attracts sharks.**

1. Chris said that most of us are swimming in shark-infested waters—we can't necessarily avoid the sharks, but we can swim with them wisely. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. A current theme in this teaching series is, *Your friends determine the direction and quality of your life*. As you look back, how have you seen this principle work itself out in your life?
3. *With the Bible or Bible App, read 1 Corinthians 15:33.*

Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NLT)

4. Ask yourself this question: Am I swimming with the sharks?
5. Chris talked about a variety of different "sharks" that we swim with into dangerous waters. Read the following verses that describe the various sharks Chris talked about:

The Bull Shark

But don't have anything to do with stupid arguments about ancestors. And stay away from disagreements and quarrels about the Law of Moses. Such arguments are useless and senseless.

Titus 3:9 (CEV)

Lemon Shark

Do everything without complaining and arguing.

Philippians 2:14 (NLT)

Nurse Shark

A troublemaker stirs up dissension; gossip separates the best of friends.

Proverbs 16:28 (NLT)

Cookie-cutter Shark

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Great White Shark

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

Proverbs 16:18 (NLT)

My slanderers pursue me all day long; many are attacking me in their pride.

Psalms 56:2 (NIV)

6. Chris said, "The waters of social media are the perfect waters for sharks to swim." Why do you think this is? Why is it that people can just be darn right mean over social media, writing things they would never say to someone face to face?
7. The way to protect yourself from being a chumbag is by following this principle: I Will Offer Unconditional Love, Not Unconditional Access. Why do people confuse the two? What are some practical ways you can love someone without giving him or her access to your life? Is this even possible?
8. Boundaries are Biblical. I will offer unconditional love but not unconditional access. Read the following verses: Psalm 1:1, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 16:18, Matthew 18:15-17, Titus 3:10.



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9. **The kind of friend you are is often the kind of friends that you'll attract.** *With your Bible or Bible App, read Matthew 22:39.*

A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:39 (NLT)

10. Are you treating others as you would want to be treated? If you're lacking good friends, read 1 Peter 2:9 and do something about it. Be a friend to someone. Help them out. Invite them to coffee or dinner. Plan an activity and invite a group to go with you. Take the initiative to be the friend you wish you had!
11. Chris said, "Sometimes who you unfriend is as important in your life as who you befriend!" This is a way you can create boundaries. Agree or disagree? Why?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Proverbs 22:28 and 23:10.*
"Before you can really reach out to anybody else, you've got to define your own property lines." This idea of defining property lines is the idea of *boundaries*. What happens when we don't set boundaries/property lines or move them? How has your peace or joy been robbed by not defining boundaries? Name a time when you took advantage of/robbed someone of his or her peace and joy by overstepping a boundary.
2. Unhealthy people build barriers, while healthy people establish boundaries. What are some barriers you have erected out of hurt or fear in your life?

"The people closest to you will hands down be your greatest spiritual assets or your worst spiritual curse. Those you spend the most time with can propel you closer to God, serving Him faithfully and pleasing Him in all you do. Or can corrupt your good intentions and rob you of the blessings God wants to pour out on you."

MOVING FORWARD

The questions listed below reflect some of the confusion we as Christians may have about boundaries.

- Can I set limits and still be a loving person?
- What are legitimate boundaries?
- What if someone is hurt or upset by my boundaries?
- How do I answer someone who wants my time, love, energy, or money?
- Why do I feel afraid or guilty when I consider setting boundaries?
- How do boundaries relate to submission?
- Is it difficult for me to hear no from other people?
- Do I tend to want to control other people when I don't get what I want?

Which of these questions have you wondered about? Which questions do you especially want answers for?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Unhealthy people create barriers based on past hurts and fears, which creates isolation. Healthy people define boundaries based on self-respect and honoring others, which creates community. What are some relationships that you need to tear down some barriers and have a talk with someone? What are some relationships that you need to define or clarify boundaries?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33