

9-24-2016, COTR Texarkana

Title: Boundaries

Purpose: Provoke people to set and live within Biblical boundaries.

Spiritual Truth: Extraordinary people have non-negotiable “Boundaries”.

Text: Genesis 39:3-9

Topic: Joseph, Boundaries, Limits, Extraordinary,

Series: Not Your Average Joe

Series Purpose: Provoke people to live an extraordinary life by following the example of Joseph.

Boundaries

I. Introduction

A. Review Sermon Series: “Not Your Average Joe”. We’re learning how to live an extraordinary life by following the example of the OT character, Joseph.

1. Listen to live stream @ChurchOnTheRock.org or the COTR iPhone/ Android app
2. An average Joe def.: Someone who is just like everyone else; a completely average person. Contrast extraordinary, def.: Someone who goes beyond what is average; someone who is exceptional and stands out in the crowd, e.g. Gary Wilkerson, BB.
3. In the last 2 messages Joseph showed us that extraordinary people follow “The Master’s Plan” and “Pass the Test”.
4. Today Joseph will show us that extraordinary people live within Biblical “Boundaries”, i.e. limits we set to define what we’ll do or not do.

B. Title: Boundaries

A. Purpose: Provoke people to set and live within Biblical boundaries.

B. Spiritual Truth: Extraordinary people have non-negotiable “Boundaries”.

II. Boundaries...everybody has them and everybody needs them

A. Pictures: Handrail on mountain, dog fence, parents set boundaries for children when they say “No” for their protection, e.g. hot stove.

B. Def. boundary: a personal limit as to how far I will go; what I will and won’t do.

C. Contrast boundless: having no limits, e.g. dog running into the street and gets killed, drinking too much and don’t call a cab and kill someone. Boundaries keep us safe.

D. Examples of boundaries we need:

1. (a) Sexual life before and after marriage (b) sleep Proverbs 20:13 (MSG) **Don’t be too fond of sleep**; you’ll end up in the poorhouse...(c) addictive substances, e.g. alcohol, drugs. Proverbs 23:29–35 (NCV) Who has trouble...Who has bloodshot eyes? 30 It is people who drink too much wine, who try out all different kinds of strong drinks...32 **Later it bites like a snake with poison in its fangs.** (DWI, lose job/ license, become an alcoholic) (d) time: balance between leisure and work (e) finances/ budget, e.g. debt, saving, giving (f) balance work and family commitments

III. Joseph had non-negotiable boundaries

A. Video Joseph and Potiphar’s wife. <https://vimeo.com/18325618>, 1:23:15-

B. Genesis 39:3–9 (NIV) When his master (*Potiphar*) saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, 4...Potiphar put him in charge of

his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned... 6...Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" 8 But **he refused**...9...My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. **How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"**

1. Why did Joseph walk away from a beautiful woman? Joseph's refusal was based on his boundaries; his boundaries were based on his relationship with God and godly principles which would later be written in the Bible.

C. Example Biblical principles Joseph adapted for sexual boundaries: Proverbs 6:23–29 (NCV) **These commands are like a lamp...the correction that comes from them will help you have life.** 24 They will keep you from sinful women and from the pleasing words of another man's unfaithful wife. 25 Don't desire her because she is beautiful. Don't let her capture you by the way she looks at you. 26...a woman who takes part in adultery may cost you your life...28 and you cannot walk on hot coals without burning your feet. 29 The same is true if you have sexual relations with another man's wife. Anyone who does so will be punished. Proverbs 5:20–21 (NIV) Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife?...21 **For your ways are in full view of the LORD,** and he examines all your paths.

1. Joseph honored his master's marriage and realized adultery could destroy his life. He saw adultery as a sin against God. His fear of God and desire to please Him made Joseph choose to respect God-given boundaries for sexuality.

D. Contrast: Samson Judges 16:1–4 (NLT) One day Samson went to the Philistine town of Gaza and spent the night with a **prostitute**...4 Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named **Delilah**...

1. Samson didn't have Biblical, godly boundaries and it cost him his freedom, his eyesight and his life.
2. The same is true today. Congressman Weiner from NY was caught sexting for the 2nd time. His improper boundary cost him his job, his wife wants a divorce and CPS is investigating because his infant son was in a picture.
3. Lesson: Biblical boundaries are good for us and keep us safe.

IV. Extraordinary people embrace God-given boundaries

A. God sets boundaries through His Word, His Spirit and our conscience. Picture handrail

1. Genesis 2:15–17 (ESV) The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- a God's command was a boundary. This command was spoken by God the Spirit and is now the written Word of God. Ignoring it was like ignoring a handrail. God's Word & Spirit give us boundaries for safety and a blessed life.

2. 1 Timothy 1:19 (NLT) Cling to your faith in Christ, and **keep your conscience clear**. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.
 - a Def. conscience: inner guidance system to help us determine right and wrong. A tender conscience is a reliable guide; a hardened conscience is not. Obeying our conscience is a way we honor godly boundaries, e.g. TV/ movies we watch
 - B. Everybody has boundaries but Biblical boundaries are better? Joseph's example:
 1. Modern culture's sexual boundary is: don't have unprotected sex, otherwise anything goes as long as it's consensual. The Bible's boundary is a higher standard. I won't have sex with anyone other than my spouse? 1 Corinthians 6:18–7:2 (ESV) **Flee from sexual immorality**...2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.
 2. Contrast the 2 boundaries: The Biblical boundary will guarantee you won't get a STD, won't get pregnant, have a greater chance of being sexually satisfied in marriage and less chance of an affair.
 3. God's sexual boundaries are there for a reason. God designed the "attachment bond" to happen during sex. Its purpose is to create feelings of intimacy and pleasure to keeps couples together long enough for them to have and raise children. Scientists have discovered the hormones God created to create the attachment bond, oxytocin and vasopressin. If we respect God's boundaries our life will be better.
- V. Conclusion: We need accountability to help us live within our boundaries.
- A. James 5:14–16 (ESV) Is anyone among you **sick**? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is **sick**, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, **confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed**. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
 1. When we cross God-given boundaries we sin and often need help to get back.
 2. There are 2 Greek words translated sick in vs. 14-15, *asthenei* and *kamnonta*. In the NT they mean to be ill, to be weak, to be weary or powerless. Therefore, when I'm spiritually weak, powerless, sick or weary I need to talk to someone and let them pray for me.
 3. Illustrate: temptation pulling me across my boundary. I need someone to pull me back. I need more than prayer in service, I need mature Christian friends who know me, who I trust and who will look for me when I disappear, e.g. Life Groups.
- VI. Response
- A. Prayer/ Souls
 - B. *** *Logos Bible Software and library, Bible Knowledge Commentary, New American Commentary: James, The Pillar NT Commentary: James were used to prepare this message.*