



BOUNDARIES IN OUR MARRIAGES AND RELATIONSHIPS
Job 38.1-11

I have four goals for this series of message on marriage and relationships:

1. I want your marriage (or relationship) to honor God.
2. I want your marriage to be the marriage God is pleased to bless.
3. I want your marriage to last.
4. I want your marriage to be a blessing to this church.

What if you are divorced?

1. Divorce is not the unpardonable sin.
2. God is the God of grace, forgiveness, and healing.
3. Make a commitment to submit yourself to God and His word going forward in any future relationships you may have.

I. THE _____ OF BOUNDARIES

A boundary is anything _____ that gives _____ to life.

Examples in the Bible of God giving specific boundaries to creation:

PS. 74.17; Prov. 8.29; Jer. 5.22

Examples in the Bible that teach us how God used boundaries in the lives of people:

Num. 34; Josh. 13; Jud. 13.4-5; Luke 1.15:

Probably the best example of boundaries given by God for men is the 10 Commandments, boundaries that define our relationship with God and our relationships with our fellow man.

II. THE _____ OF BOUNDARIES

What is the purpose of boundaries?

Boundaries define us. They define what is me and what is not me¹.

When both spouses are active in boundary setting, when they both speak the truth, solve problems, and set goals, they will both grow².

There are four key reasons for boundaries:

1. Boundaries _____.

Boundaries paint a picture of what our marriages and relationships _____.

2. Boundaries _____:

You and your spouse must _____.

3. Boundaries _____

Here is one of the most important keys to effective boundaries: _____.

ROM. 3.23: *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

¹ Henry Cloud and John Townsend, "What do you mean by boundaries?", www.cloud-townsend.com (internet, accessed Feb. 7, 2019).

² Ibid.

ROM. 5.19: *for as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.*

Relationships and marriages without boundaries are _____.

4. Boundaries _____

Having boundaries promotes healthy marriages and relationships and gives you a _____ to the _____ of boundaries.

III. THE _____ OF BOUNDARIES

WHAT kind of boundaries do you need to set?

Healthy marriage relationships thrive on two important facts: mutual respect _____ each other and selfless living _____ each another.

Use this guideline when determining boundaries:

Boundaries must be;

1. _____ in a relationship with the Son of God.
2. _____ by the Word of God;
3. _____ by the Spirit of God;

I want to offer four suggestions on the types of boundaries you need for your marriage or relationship; the first two really go hand-in-hand:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

In marriage, if you focus on what you want and desire and just stay angry and disappointed that you are not getting it, you will remain there. But if you focus on cultivating the garden instead of demanding the fruit, then your garden will yield a huge harvest³

Now one more word of caution and you need to listen very carefully:

Boundaries are never to be used to _____ – ever!

In his book, *The Storm-Tossed Family*, Dr. Russel Moore wrote this and listen to this carefully:

If divorce is an option for you—even a last resort—it will happen⁴.

The ultimate boundary in life, in all of eternity, is the boundary that separates heaven and hell. In Luke 16, Jesus tells the story of a beggar named Lazarus and a rich man. Lazarus would beg for scraps under the table of the rich man. Both Lazarus and the rich man died; Lazarus went to heaven, the rich man went to hell. Listen to how Jesus described the ultimate boundary:

LUKE 16.24-26 [READ]

The boundary between heaven and hell will never be crossed. That is one boundary you cannot mess around with or take lightly; you must have that decided in your life today. Only by faith in Christ will you be forgiven of your sins and have life eternal.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Russell Moore, *The Storm-Tossed Family* (Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2018), 176.