



## RELATIONAL BOUNDARIES

April 13 & 14, 2024

### **Proverbs 4:10-24 (TPT)**

My son, if you will take the time to stop and listen to me and embrace what I say, you will live a long and happy life full of understanding in every way. I have taken you by the hand in wisdom's ways, pointing you to the path of integrity. Your progress will have no limits when you come along with me, and you will never stumble as you walk along the way. So receive my correction no matter how hard it is to swallow, for wisdom will snap you back into place—her words will be invigorating life to you. Do not detour into darkness or even set foot on that path. Stay away from it; don't even go there! For troublemakers are restless if they are not involved in evil. They are not satisfied until they have brought someone harm. They feed on darkness and drink until they're drunk on the wine of wickedness. But the lovers of God walk on the highway of light, and their way shines brighter and brighter until the perfect day. But the wicked walk in thick darkness, like those who travel in fog, and yet don't have a clue why they keep stumbling! Listen carefully, my dear child, to everything that I teach you, and pay attention to all that I have to say. Fill your thoughts with my words until they penetrate deep into your spirit. Then, as you unwrap my words, they will impart true life and radiant health into the very core of your being. So above all, guard the affections of your heart, for they affect all that you are. Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being, for from there flows the wellspring of life. Avoid dishonest speech and pretentious words. Be free from using perverse words no matter what!

## **2 FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS GOD DESIGNED FOR RELATIONSHIPS**

**Foundational Element #1** — \_\_\_\_\_

### **1 Peter 4:10 (TPT)**

Every believer has received grace gifts, so use them to serve one another as faithful stewards of the many-colored tapestry of God's grace.

## Foundational Element #2 — \_\_\_\_\_

### **Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)**

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

- Grace provides the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Truth provides the \_\_\_\_\_.

## **2 REASONS MY RELATIONSHIPS ARE OUT OF BALANCE**

**Reason #1 — Because someone in my life is \_\_\_\_\_ of control.**

### **Romans 13:13 (NLT)**

Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy.

**Reason #2 — Because someone is trying to \_\_\_\_\_ someone else.**

### **Galatians 5:1 (TPT)**

At last we have freedom, for Christ has set us free! We must always cherish this truth and firmly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past.

### **Titus 3:9-11 (TPT)**

But avoid useless controversies, genealogies, pointless quarrels, and arguments over the law, which will get you nowhere. After a first and second warning, have nothing more to do with a divisive person who refuses to be corrected. For you know that such a one is entwined with his sin and stands self-condemned.

## **CONTROLLING PEOPLE ARE:**

- \_\_\_\_\_, argumentative and think they are right.
- \_\_\_\_\_ with rapid mood swings.
- Belittling and \_\_\_\_\_, often following compliments with criticism.
- \_\_\_\_\_ more than they \_\_\_\_\_.
- Emotionally \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and indifferent.

## 2 ASPECTS OF SETTING GODLY BOUNDARIES

**Aspect #1 — Love others without trying to \_\_\_\_\_ them.**

**Galatians 6:1, 2, 5 (NIV)**

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ... for each one should carry their own load.

**Aspect #2 — Learn to \_\_\_\_\_ in love.**

**Matthew 18:15 (NIV)**

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault just between the two of you. (Privately) if they listen to you, you've won them over.

**Ephesians 4:29-32 (TPT)**

And never let ugly or hateful words come from your mouth, but instead let your words become beautiful gifts that encourage others; do this by speaking words of grace to help them. The Holy Spirit of God has sealed you in Jesus Christ until you experience your full salvation. So never grieve the Spirit of God or take for granted his holy influence in your life. Lay aside bitter words, temper tantrums, revenge, profanity, and insults. But instead be kind and affectionate toward one another. Has God graciously forgiven you? Then graciously forgive one another in the depths of Christ's love.

## RELATIONAL BOUNDARIES ARE DEVELOPED BY LEARNING 4 SKILLS

**1**

**Always start from a position of \_\_\_\_\_ clothed in \_\_\_\_\_.**

**John 13:34 (NLT)**

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

**Proverbs 11:2 (TPT)**

When you act with presumption, convinced that you're right, don't be surprised if you fall flat on your face! But humility leads to wisdom.

**Colossians 3:12-14 (GNBDC)**

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

**2**

\_\_\_\_\_ to say 'no' when it's best to say 'no'.

**Matthew 5:36-37** (GNBDC)

Do not even swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. Just say 'Yes' or 'No' — anything else you say comes from the Evil One.

**James 5:12** (GNBDC)

Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not use an oath when you make a promise. Do not swear by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Say only "Yes" when you mean yes, and "No" when you mean no, and then you will not come under God's judgement.

**3**

\_\_\_\_\_ consequences if necessary.

**Proverbs 19:19** (GNBDC)

If someone has a hot temper, let him take the consequences. If you get him out of trouble once, you will have to do it again.

**Zechariah 1:6** (GNBDC)

Through my servants the prophets I gave your ancestors commands and warnings, but they disregarded them and suffered the consequences. Then they repented and acknowledged that I, the LORD Almighty, had punished them as they deserved and as I had determined to do.

There may be a need for a necessary \_\_\_\_\_ to the relationship.

**4**

Remember the \_\_\_\_\_ for restoring my relationships is \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 13:11** (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



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Every believer has received grace gifts, so use them to serve one another as faithful stewards of the many-colored tapestry of God's grace.

## Foundational Element #2 — Truth

### **Ephesians 4:15** (NLT)

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

- **Grace provides the safety.**
- **Truth provides the structure.**

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- **Belittling and cruel, often following compliments with criticism.**
- **Talkative more than they listen.**
- **Emotionally unstable.**
- **Apathetic and indifferent.**

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