



**DRAWING THE LINE:
SETTING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES**

Linda C. Lariscy

Copyright ©2012 By Linda C. Lariscy

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, Holding Forth The Word Of Life Ministries, 112 Broad St. Wrens, Ga. 30833, Call 706-547-0403.

Visit our website at www.hfwlministry.com

ISBN-13:978-0-9855343-0-1

God is a Boundary Maker

This is a teaching companion to the television series that I did formally on “Boundaries: What they are and why you need them”. This message will help you know what boundaries are and how they can benefit you for a better life.

When people say “draw the line” they are talking about making a boundary. Boundaries are about what you will tolerate and what you will not tolerate. Think of boundaries as limits. Boundaries are a lot about honoring people and honoring yourself. I want you to think for a moment of God as being a boundary maker. If he is a boundary maker and we are created in his image then we too have to make boundaries.

When you think about boundaries, understand it’s not just about other people, but it’s also about you. You want to honor people’s boundaries and you want people to honor your boundaries. So as we look at this study we’re going to be talking a lot about some practical things that you can do to be a boundary maker.

Boundaries Are for Our Protection

(Proverbs 8:29 NLT) “I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries”. God has designed boundaries as a means of protection. When you look at the way the oceans are bound, God truly did that. He set a limit to how far the oceans would come, and how far that tides would come. This is obviously a protection for us. The Lord gives us wisdom in His Word to guide and protect us. As long as you stay within the bounds that are acceptable unto God, you’re going to be moving in blessing and in the favor of God. You will also be in a safe place. But when you get beyond that boundary, that’s when trouble comes. God doesn’t want you to be in trouble. Many people today do not understand what is acceptable behavior and what is not acceptable. So you’ve got to begin to look at your life and say, “I’m going to be a boundary maker”. In other words, I’m going to set boundaries in my life that reflect who I am as a Christian. Every boundary that you make should reflect your relationship with Jesus Christ. The Word of God shows you what is acceptable and what is not.

I want you to ask yourself, “Do I have a hard time saying ‘no’ and setting limits for what people are allowed to do in my life?” I hear this is a lot from people, “I just can’t help it. I have always been controlled. I’ve never been able to do what I want to do. It’s just the way my life has turned out.” Whether you agree or not the truth is your life is turning out according to your own choices. You must take responsibility for your life. You have what you allow, no matter what has gone on in your life. Are you married to a verbally abusive person or an alcoholic? Are you a teenage that’s being bullied at school and all you do is cry about? You could be someone that’s saying “I don’t have much money and I’ve been taken advantage of by people all my life.”

This may be hard for you to accept but you have what you allow. You are not a victim of your circumstances especially if you know the Lord. He gives you strength. We are strong in the strength of the Lord. So if this has hit a nerve with you, open up your eyes and open up your heart. This message will define boundaries in your life so you can lose that victim role and become a victor, an authentic person of faith.

Become Bold

One of the first things you’ve got to change in your life is the fact that you’re going to have to open up your mouth and voice what you’re going to allow and what you’re not going to allow. In order to be that kind of a person, you’re going to have to be a person that is very bold. **(Proverbs 28:1 KJV) The righteous are as bold as a lion.** I don’t know what you think of Christianity. As a matter of fact, many people have the wrong view of Christianity. Christ-like people are not wimpy. They are very strong people because God is strong within them. Boldness is a characteristic that you’re going to have to have in order to tell people what you’re going to allow in your life and what you’re not going to allow. Boldness, believe it or not, comes into a person’s life when they become born again and baptized with the Holy Spirit. I have to say, that here at HFWL, we really promote people seeking the baptism with the Holy Ghost. We know that once a person receives the baptism with the Holy Spirit they are going to change. One of the evidences of being filled with the Holy Spirit to the overflowing is that you’re going to have a greater measure of boldness in your life. You’re going to learn how to speak. You’re going to learn how to voice what is true and what is not true. You’re going to be able to truly speak the truth in love.

Are You Baptized with the Holy Spirit?

You may not set boundaries in your life because you're shy or afraid. If you're not a bold person and yet you know you're born again consider asking God if you are filled with the Holy Ghost? Have you gone to Jesus Christ? Have you said to him "Lord Jesus, your word says that you baptize those who come to you with the Holy Spirit, I want you to baptize me in the Holy Spirit"? If your life is a mess right now, maybe it's because you're allowing people to transgress and trespass your boundaries. There may be a need for you to seek out people that are baptized with the Holy Spirit; people that can actually help you and guide you in receiving this wonderful gift of God. The Holy Spirit not only wants to be in you but he wants to be on you. He wants to flow out of you and go beyond you, so that you can be a vessel of great honor. His desire is for you to be a planet shaker and a world changer. You're not going to be that way if you can't set boundaries and if people in your life constantly trespass your boundaries.

(Acts 4:31 KJV) And they were all gathered and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke the word of God with boldness.

They were what? They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they spoke the word of God with boldness. I'm just going to be honest with you. Most Christians I know, especially those that have not sought the baptism with the Holy Spirit are not moving in the Apostolic and Prophetic graces and they don't even know how to share their faith. The fact that they are very nice and soft-spoken people doesn't really mean anything. Very few of them cannot witness of the things of the Lord because they lack boldness. The scripture says that being filled with the Holy Ghost, you have boldness. And why do you have boldness? So that you can open your mouth, use your voice, and speak the word of God.

Voice Your Choice

The way you draw the line and set boundaries in your life is through your mouth. You will never set a boundary if you don't let people know what your boundaries are. If you don't do that, people are not going to understand that you have a boundary. If your life right now in chaos? Do you feel like life is not fair especially

in the area of relationships? Are you a people pleaser or someone's doormat? Do you respect the boundaries of others but have none of your own?

When people trespass your boundaries, you have to let them know. You can't sugar coat things. You just have to say exactly what is going on and that the behavior the person is demonstrating is unacceptable to you. You should be polite but open and direct with the person. Make it clear what your expectations are of the person. The Lord will anoint you with wisdom and he will give you boldness to speak plainly. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is vital for you to access the strength of the Lord and to gain an excellent spirit.

Many of you move in the business realm. You understand that when you go into an agreement with a person, you draw up a contract, correct? In this contract, you have everything expressed in written form of what your responsibility is. You make clear, what you're going to allow and what you are not going to allow, correct? Well that's very much like a boundary. First things first; if you want to move into a better quality of life, you're going to have to express your boundaries either verbally or in a written form. Sometimes with certain people it's a good thing to write something out and let them know where you are. It's like a little reminder of what you desire from them and what they can expect from you.

Again, are you filled with the Holy Spirit? You need to be. The Holy Ghost will give you boldness such like you've never had before. He will enable you to voice your choice.

Jesus Is Our Example

I want to share a few verses from the word that talks about Jesus. You have to understand that Jesus is the Son of God. He is our example. He came to the earth, he was God, but he came to earth as a man. Jesus experienced every temptation that you and I experience. He even experienced relationships with people that broke boundaries. Jesus knew how to deal with those people.

One of Jesus' closest companions was a boundary breaker. Do you know who that person was? It was Judas. **(Luke 22:47-48 ESV) but even as Jesus said this, a crowd approached, led by Judas, one of his 12 disciples. Judas walked over to Jesus to greet him with a kiss. Jesus said, "Judas would you betray the son of**

man with a kiss?” Jesus knew what Judas was doing. Judas was about to betray Jesus. He was a player with the Pharisees to actually have Christ crucified. He had the nerve to pretend as if he cared for Jesus by greeting him with a kiss. He crossed a major boundary line with the Lord and instead of pretending that he didn't know, Jesus opened up his mouth and said, “How can you do this? How can you betray me with a kiss?” That's the power of Jesus Christ, that's the very boldness of the Lord.

Another scripture that I think portrays Christ's boldness is found in **(Luke 7:44-47 ESV) Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.**

Simon, a very religious man, a Pharisee, invited Jesus to his home. When Jesus arrived, Simon did not treat Christ in a hospitable manner. As a matter of fact, he treated Christ with disdain. Now let's look at this really carefully. When Christ came to the home of this Pharisee to have dinner, the Pharisee did not greet Christ correctly. He did not welcome Christ into his home. Actually, he was quite rude to the Lord. He did not have water to wash his feet. When the woman saw Jesus, she respected and honored Him greatly. She did bow down before Christ because He was God and she sensed that so she honored Him, respected His boundaries, and washed his feet.

There are two things going on here. We see a woman who honored the Lord, but we also see a very religious person. This is a person that would have been lifted up by many people in town as “godly”. This Pharisee would not even respect Christ enough to wash his feet and give him a proper greeting at the door. What is very obvious here is that Christ didn't just let it fly. He actually pointed it out. This is important to see; when people trespass your boundaries, if you do not point it out to them they are going to transgress your boundaries again and again. Perhaps if you point out their indiscretions they will change and begin to better respect you and others.

So case in point, Jesus was a bold Savior wasn't He? He is our example. I don't think anybody could say that Jesus was sinful. The scripture says that he was actually tempted in every way that we would be tempted yet without sin. So

when you set a boundary, and you point out your boundary, that is not being selfish or unkind. It's actually a way of showing people that you have respect for yourself and respect for the Lord, but also, you have respect for others.

Understand the people who you are in close relationship are the main people that need to know what your boundaries are. These same people are going to be the ones that are most likely going to trespass your boundaries if you don't express them. Peter one of Jesus's closest friends was a boundary breaker as we read in the following passage: **(Matt. 16:21-23 ESV) From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and the chief priest and scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." 23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."**

In this passage Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priest, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed and on the third day he would be raised from the dead but Peter took him aside and chastised him for saying such a thing. Peter crossed a boundary by reprimanding Him and Jesus let him know it. He had to set Peter straight because it was God's will for Christ to die on the cross. It was the destiny of Christ that these things happen to him, and yet Peter was trying to mitigate what God's plan was for Christ, and Christ would not have it. There may be people in your life that will speak to you and try to pet things for you. They will try to tell you that you don't have to do all that God expects of you or you do not really have to lay your life down for Christ. People can say a lot of things that can actually influence you not to go deeper with God. This is exactly what Peter was doing, and that's a boundary being crossed. Christ boldly spoke to it though and cut off its effect. We see the boldness of Christ and the importance that you and I need the power of the Holy Spirit that we too can be bold as we speak forth our boundaries.

Be Consistent

Setting healthy boundaries will require consistency on your part. You cannot do it one day and not do it the next. You have to have a real change of life style and learn to be consistent in your boundary making. If you're not consistent then it is not going to work for you. Now, the Apostle Paul speaks to consistency in **(Romans 14:22-23 Message) he says, "Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others. You are fortunate if your behavior and your belief are coherent. But if you are not sure, if you have noticed that you are acting in ways that are inconsistent with what you believe - - some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them - - then you know that you are out of line. If the way you live is inconsistent with what you believe, then it is wrong."**

You have to be consistent with your boundaries. One day you can't say to a person, "This is my boundary," and then the next day pull away from that boundary. You have to believe what you say and say what you believe and then be consistent with that. If you will practice this consistency and be patient with people, things will change up for you. It will not happen immediately, but it will happen. Get that in your spirit and ask the Holy Spirit to remind you to be consistent. Receive the grace of God to be consistent.

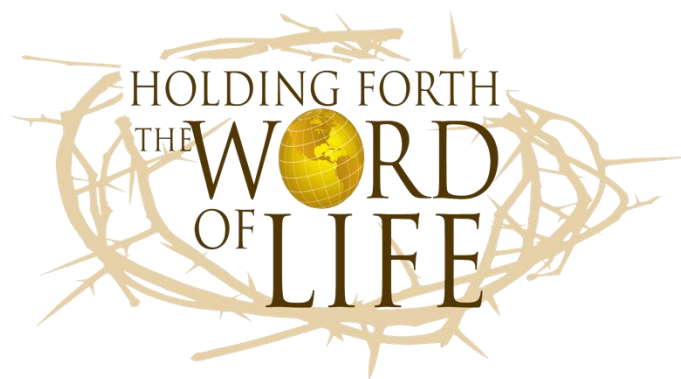
Consideration

Another major characteristic of a boundary maker is consideration. You really have to think about the boundaries you set, and you can't move or fly by the seat of your pants when it comes to boundaries. You have to start considering: What is going on in your life? Who in your life is breaking your boundaries? Who in your life is trespassing? Then you have to draw a line in your life, and you have to think how you are going to approach that person. What you need to say in that situation so that you can be bold when you voice it and consistent when you move with it on a daily basis. Remember the people that are most likely to cross your boundaries are people you see every day. That would be people in your family, people in your ministries or in your church life, and people on your job. So consider where you are and what you need to change.

The scripture has a lot to say about consideration, but I will show you only a few. **(Colossians 4:6 NLT) “Everything you say should be kind and well thought out so that you know how to answer everyone.”** See, the Holy Spirit will give you wisdom and the Holy Spirit will give you counsel, but many people try to do everything on the spur of the moment. They have not backed up to meditate. They have not really gone before the Lord and sought the wisdom of God. So, when you think about the boundaries you want to express and demonstrate, go to God, ask for wisdom and the Lord will help you. Then, when you speak your boundaries it will be well thought out, it will make perfect sense and you can say it in a kind manner because you prepared wisely. **(2 Corinthians 1:17-19 NLT) “Do you think I make my plans carelessly? Do you think I am like people of the world who say yes when they really mean no? As surely as God is faithful, my word to you does not waver between yes and no. For Jesus Christ the Son of God does not waver between yes and no.”** Plan out how you are going to approach situations and people. As a boundary maker you have to plan and think before you act. This is a new way of living for many and yet it will yield a better quality of life for you.

I want you to know that God is with you and God is going to help you be a boundary maker just as He is a boundary maker. As you set limits in your life and stick to them, things will change for the better.

I love you and I bless you. Let’s continue to be a people that hold forth the Word of Life.



Other Teaching Series
Offered by
Holding Forth the Word of Life Ministries

Exposing The Hidden Snare of Bitter Roots

Exposing the Hidden Snare of Jealousy

The Witch in You

Soul Power

Being Covenant Ruled

Developing a Kingdom Mentality

Developing a Fighting Faith

Growing Up in My Father's House

Defining the Apostolic Church

Life in the Spirit is Freedom

Exposing the spirit of Mammon

Living a Guilt Free Life

Putting the Axe to Anger

Axing Anxiety

Recovering from Co-Dependency

Boundaries: What They Are & Why You Need Them

Drawing the Line: Setting Healthy Boundaries

www.hfwlministry.com

www.lindalariscyministries.com



Apostle Linda Lariscy is first a disciple of Christ, a wife, and mother. She is the founder of Holding Forth the Word of Life Ministries, Isaiah 58 Outreach, and Let the Little Children Come: Life Words for Kids, all of Wrens, Ga. She holds a Doctor of Ministry and has been actively involved in church discipleship for over 30 years. She has ministered in the United States and Europe, and is a prolific writer. Linda's passion is to see people grow spiritually as they discover their purpose in life through their identity in Christ. She believes that the five-fold ministry gifts of Christ are essential for every Christian to mature and be equipped to advance God's Kingdom on earth.

