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“A Vital Christian Presence in Social Work”

APPROPRIATE BOUNDARIES IN CHRISTIAN PARENTING

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Appropriate Boundaries in Christian Parenting

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What do most Christian parents want from their children?

- Obedience
- Love
- Become Effective Christians
- Other...



Parenting Styles Demonstrating Boundaries

- Lines in the sand
- Brick wall
- Deep-rooted oak tree



Definition of Boundaries

- A structure from which to operate...
that is geared for protection and effective living...
which encompasses positive and negative consequences...
for reinforcement of that structure.

What are some examples of God-given boundaries?



- *Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)*
- *Ephesians 5:1-5*
- *Ephesians 6:1-4*
- *Philippians 2:14-16*
- *Philippians 4:4-8*

Why is it important for children of God to have boundaries?

- *Deuteronomy 6:1-3*
- *Deuteronomy 28:1-14*



Why is it important for all children to have boundaries?

- Chaos...
- Role of a Godly Parent

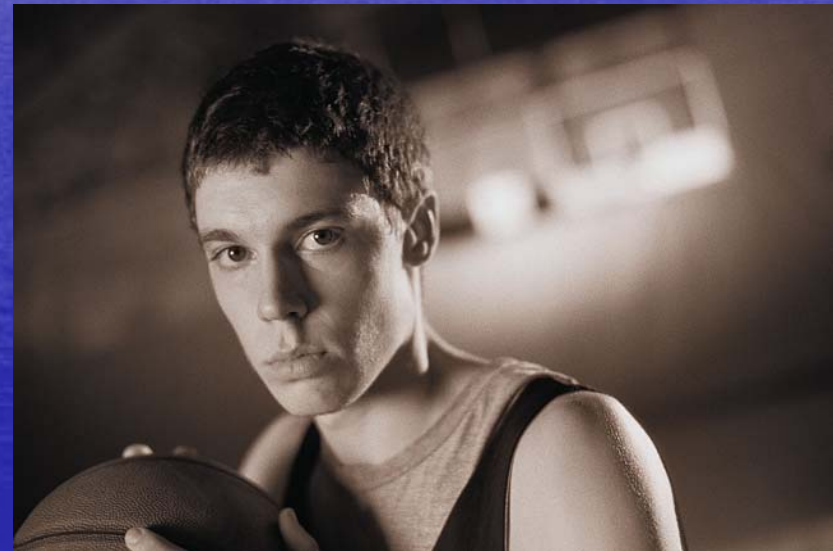


How do we start setting boundaries for ourselves and for our children?

- *“Is it all about me?”* or *“Is it all about Him?”*
- God is our heavenly Father / parent
- Christ is our earthly role-model for behavior
- The Holy Spirit is our spiritual counselor for our wisdom and correction

What do *inappropriate* boundaries in Christian parenting look like?

- Harsh
- Controlling
- Neglectful
- Guilt-ridden



What do appropriate boundaries in Christian parenting look like?

- Designed for teaching/nurturing/protection
- Suitable for appropriate age and stage of child's development
- Punishment fits the crime
- Pay attention to the behavior you want to see
- If you want children to obey, they should trust in you
- Does God want you to obey out of fear or out of respect?

When should parents be inflexible in boundary management?

- Natural and Logical Consequences
- Allowing the Child to Choose the Consequence



What are some important steps in helping children to avoid stepping over the line/boundary?

1) Seek to honor God in all aspects of our parenting journey

“I – state your name – pledge allegiance to the Word of God and seek to honor God in all aspects of my parenting journey.”

2) Fully understand the duties of our role as the parent and the duties of our child's role

3) Fully understand the ages and stages of development as well as personality traits

...Continued...

- 4) Establish and Teach Biblical morals and values
- 5) Use Family Rules to reinforce teaching and building trust
- 6) Fully understand that our children are a gift from God that He has entrusted to us and we will be held accountable for how we manage this responsibility
- 7) Fully understand that we are not perfect and neither are our children. We are growing in the Spirit and learning from one another everyday. Those experiences can be fun

“What’s in this for ME?” You Ask!

Within your own ministry:

- Parents become more reliable leaders / teachers within their home
- Children can more readily concentrate on the Biblical ‘lessons’ you are teaching
- Your job is less stressful and more meaningful
- Others....

So How Do You Apply This to Your Ministry?

- The Various Parenting Roles We Have
- Getting Parents to Buy-In
- Using Effective Parents as Models for Behavior
- Others...

May God bless us all in our
parenting journey!!



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