



Wisdom
for
Living

A Series
on the
Book of
Proverbs

BOUNDARIES



FRIENDS MATTER

- Your life is partly determined by the people you hang out with, the people you associate with, the people who you employ and do deals with, and the people whom you ***allow*** to manipulate you and use you for their own ends.

A row of colorful books on a shelf, with spines in various colors like red, green, and brown.

PAINFUL MISTAKES

- People are most often destroyed by the foolish things that they tolerate in their lives.



BOUNDARIES

A Biblical boundary is a personal relational line or association that, if crossed, will:

- Lead you into sin
- Lead you into an unwise action
- Lead you into personal hurt or pain
- Negatively impact your spiritual growth



FOOLS

Proverbs 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived:
“Bad company ruins good morals.”

A decorative header featuring a row of books with various colored spines (red, green, brown, blue) on a shelf. The word "SEDUCTIVE" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the center of the image.

SEDUCTIVE

Proverbs 5:3-6 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, 4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; 6 she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

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ANGRY MEN

Proverbs 22:24-25 Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, **25** lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

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HERETICS

Romans 16:17,17 I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.



CATEGORIES

- **IGNORANT:** Fools, opinionated, boorish
- **VIOLENT:** Physically, emotionally, verbally
- **LAZY:** sluggard, careless, daydreamer, inept
- **SEDUCTIVE:** harlot, charmer, enticer
- **ADDICTED:** drunkards, gamblers, spenders
- **MANIPULATORS:** liars, schemers, flatterers
- **DIVIDERS:** heretics, rebels, gossips, toxic

A decorative header featuring a row of books with various colored spines (red, brown, green, blue) on a shelf. The background of the header is a solid green color.

BUT JESUS!

Jesus was amicable towards sinners but only in morally safe group contexts where He was observable. He did not go into brothels or into intimate private situations.



THE COST

- Some people are just toxic! They damage our emotions, our spirit and our mind.
- Others can ruin us spiritually by enticing us into sin.
- Financial ruin can result from being conned by a devious person, or by employing a careless person.
- Others waste our time, resources and life energy trying to change them or teach them.



NO BOUNDARIES

- Entangled in sinful relationships
- Consumed by toxic people, ripped off financially
- Go from crisis to crisis, get into legal trouble
- Cannot say “No”
- Lose your temper when you do have to say “No”
- Give in or compromise instead of being “not nice”
- End up being controlled by others
- No time, money, or space of your own, no authority



THREE REACTIONS

- **PASSIVE** – I am not OK, you are OK, I will be timid and give in, compliant, submissive, vague, non-committal, talks little, Its Ok, its alright....
- **AGGRESSIVE** – I am OK, you are not Ok, selfish, harsh, superior, sarcastic, interrupts, patronizing, disrespectful, “if you don’t like it – tough”, “you need to stop being sensitive”.
- **ASSERTIVE** – I am OK, you are Ok, respectful, firm, polite, messages the behavior and not the person, expressions fit with words spoken, offers constructive alternatives.

SYMPTOMS

- Violent / Abusive
- Hot / Cold
- Remorse Then Repeat
- Liars / Untruthful
- Play Games
- Inconsistent Delivery
- Always Has An Excuse
- Betrays Secrets
- Lead You Into Sin
- Lead You Away From Truth
- Lead You Away from God
- No Self-Awareness
- Make You Feel Bad
- Always Make You Apologize
- Proud / Self-Righteous
- Cannot Commit



SYMPTOMS - 2

- Condemning/Blaming
- Addicted / Indebted
- Wants To Control You
- Does Not Listen
- Childish, Jealous
- Unforgiving / Resentful
- Often Defensive
- Inconsiderate, 1-Way Street
- Dangerously Impulsive
- Unwise About Consequences
- Rigid / Harsh / Demeaning
- Untrustworthy



SAFE DISTANCE

- Boundaries are not about disliking people
- Boundaries are about keeping toxic people at a safe distance from your finances, emotions and life-decisions.
- You can still pray for them and share the gospel with them etc.



CLOSE

FRIENDLY

TRANSACTIONAL

AVOID



4 LEVELS

CLOSE = People you can trust, high information

FRIENDLY = Amicable and neighborly, limited info

TRANSACTIONAL = Businesslike, necessary info

AVOID = Toxic/Negative people, zero information



DISCERNMENT

- Pray for Discernment, Read Proverbs and Take Notes
- Listen for a Nudge From God
- Are They On The Path of Wisdom?
- Notice How They Treat Others, Animals, and Children
- What Is Their Attitude To Money?
- Are They Always Taking Unwise Shortcuts?
- Do They Often Make You Feel Bad / Guilty?
- Are They Overly Sentimental Or Overly Religious?



RESPONDING WELL

- BE ASSERTIVE - not passive or aggressive
- FOCUS ON BEHAVIOR – and not on personality
- KNOW THE DESIRED OUTCOME - be specific
- BE CALM AND PROFESSIONAL – not a soap opera
- BE PREPARED – work out the best thing to say
- BE AWARE OF YOUR RIGHTS AND YOUR BOUNDARIES
- NEGOTIATE— have a best alternative to a negotiated agreement. Leave the threats to LAST. Most often, you get what you negotiate, not what you deserve.



SPIRITUAL PREP.

- PRAY until you are calm and have God's perspective
- ASK for wisdom in your words, go to Scripture
- ASK for wisdom in your timing and implementation
- Should I exercise FORBEARANCE?
- Should I exercise DISCIPLINE?
- Should I FLEE (temptation, danger, idols etc)?
- Should I STAND FIRM?
- Should I NEGOTIATE?



SAYING NO

- When you do behavior X - it makes me feel Y - and that is just not acceptable, so please change behavior X.
- Your behavior is unsafe, I need to feel safe, so I am terminating our friendship and I do not want any further contact from you.
- Your behavior is unreliable, you consistently fail to deliver, I will be choosing another vendor.
- I am my own person under God, I refuse to accept your manipulative behavior, you must stop trying to run my life.



BROKEN RECORD

- “Broken Record” is saying the same boundary violation statement over and over and over again until the person finally gets that you are serious about the issue and gives up.
- *“I need to tell you that our funds are fully committed and that we will not be buying your product”.*



READING

- Boundaries – Cloud and Townsend
- Speaking The Truth In Love – Kenneth Haugk