

- I. Boundaries in relationship
- a. Establish the Need: **When people enter relationship is there a plan to be pure?** Whoever does not plan, has already planned to fail. There is the importance of having a plan in the area of purity in relationship. This is addressing both those in relationship and those not in a relationship yet. This is also important for pastors and parents.
 - b. Purpose: This session we will answer three questions to show why you need to set boundaries before you are in a relationship, **within your relationship** and boundaries with those outside of your relationship so that you guard your heart, mind and body in purity before the Lord.
 - i. Why boundaries?
 - ii. What if you think you are good enough not to need boundaries in my relationship?
 - iii. How do I set/implement those boundaries?
 - c. Question 1: Why boundaries?
 - i. Remember the time of courtship is not marriage; don't treat courtship as a time of it being a smaller "marriage," if you do, you can easily fall into sin or be hurt much more emotionally if the relationship does not work out.
 - ii. Therefore we are to "Pursue Clarity and postpone intimacy" in relationship.¹
 - iii. "Don't let your mind marry him before the rest of you can."²
 - iv. "You will be hard-pressed, though, to find a married couple regretting the boundaries they made in dating, while you will very easily find those that wish they had more."³
 - d. Question 2: What if you think you are good enough not to need boundaries in my relationship?
 - i. ESTABLISH THE NEED: Why Boundaries? It is a wisdom Issue
 - ii. Do you think you are too strong to need boundaries?
 1. Samson was the strongest man in the Bible
 - a. Killed a thousand men with a fresh jawbone (**Judges 15:15**)
 - b. Destroyed a building housing 3,000 people (**Judges 16:27-30**)
 2. Yet, he strayed away from the LORD when it comes to area of relationship (**Judges 16:4-21**)
 - iii. Do you think you are too wise to need boundaries?
 1. Solomon was wisest man
 - a. "...*behold, I have done according to your words Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.*" (**1 Kings 3:12** beginning at **1 Kings 3:5**)
 - b. "*So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.*" (**1 Kings 10:23**)
 2. Yet, he strayed away from the LORD when it comes to area of relationship; see **1 Kings 11:1-6**.
 - iv. Do you think you are too spiritual to need boundaries?
 1. David was a man after God's own heart
 - a. "*But now your kingdom shall not endure The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.*" (**1 Samuel 13:14**)
 - b. "*After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND*

¹ Marshall Segal, *Not Yet Married* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2017), 146.

² Marshall Segal, *Not Yet Married* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2017), 112.

³ Marshall Segal, *Not Yet Married* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2017), 113.

DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.'" (Acts 13:22)

2. Yet, he strayed away from the LORD when it comes to the area of relationship; see 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 12:9.

e. **Question 3: How do I set/implement those boundaries?**

f. **PRINCIPLE 1: How far away can I be away from the edge of sin?**

- i. Principle: So many times people have the mind that ask, "How close can I go before we sin?" instead of "how far away can I be away from sin?" We need to start thinking of being as far away from sin as possible.

ii. Proof:

1. One of the most hair standing passage that Scripture addresses the issue so vividly and accurately the danger of flirting with the edge of temptation is Proverbs 7:6-27.

a. Coming to the edge (Proverbs 7:7-9)

- i. "Passing through the street near her corner" (v.8a)
- ii. "Takes the way to her house" (v.8b)
- iii. At night (v.9). Notice four ways the writer says the same thing for emphasis:
 1. "In the twilight"
 2. "in the evening"
 3. "in the middle of the night"
 4. "and in the darkness"

b. The onslaught temptation (Proverbs 7:10-21)

i. The surprise:

1. "And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart." (v.10)
 - a. The Hebrew word for "behold" is meant to grab our attention and express surprise.
 - b. Suddenly the man is face with this woman coming out.
 - c. Notice the surprise is related to two facts about the woman:
 - i. "Dressed as a harlot"
 - ii. "cunning of heart"
2. "So she seizes him and kisses him And with a brazen face she says to him:" (v.13)
 - a. She now physically tempt him by grabbing him.
 - b. She doesn't just grab him she kisses him.

ii. The enticement: "With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him." (v.21)

1. Notice "many persuasions she entices him"
2. Notice this verse says she uses flattery to entice him.
3. This is vividly quoted in v.14-20.

c. The inevitable disaster: "Suddenly he follows her As an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as [p]one in fetters to the discipline of a fool, 23 Until an arrow pierces through his liver; As a bird hastens to the snare, So he does not know that it will cost him his life." (Proverbs 7:22-23)

d. Picture: Like a bug drawn to an electric zap are some who follow their temptation.

- e. Listen! Listen! (**Proverbs 7:24**)
- f. “DO NOT LET YOUR HEART TURN ASIDE TO HER WAYS, DO NOT STRAY INTO HER PATHS” (**v.25**)
- iii. Picture: (Driving near the Himalayas, do you want to drive as close to the edge or away from the edge if you want to be safe?)
- iv. Practice:
 1. Have the right question: Do you have the mind-set of how far away you can be away from sin or how far you can be near sin?
 2. Be honest: Sexual temptation is very real even with a godly person you are interested in.
- g. PRINCIPLE 2: Am I starting up anything before its proper time?
 - i. Principle: Go slow in the progress within the relationship. Don’t unnaturally press for the relationship to go fast; remember, fast is slow and slow is fast.
 - ii. Proof:
 1. 3 Times in the Song of Solomon it was stated: “*Do not arouse or awaken my love Until she pleases.*”
 2. Idea: Go slow with love. Also go slow with Physical relationship
 3. “*I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, that you will not arouse or awaken my love until she pleases.*” (**Song of Solomon 2:7**)
 - a. After **verse six** which states about physical relationship: “*Let his left hand be under my head And his right hand embrace me.*”
 - b. So we must also be slow with not only emotional attachment but also physical touch.
 4. “*I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, That you will not arouse or awaken my love Until she pleases.*” (**Song of Solomon 3:5**)
 5. “*I want you to swear, O daughters of Jerusalem, Do not arouse or awaken my love Until she pleases.*” (**Song of Solomon 8:4**)
 - a. Like in **Song of Solomon 2:7** After **verse three** which states about physical relationship: “*Let his left hand be under my head And his right hand embrace me.*”
 - b. Again this is a reminder we must also be slow with not only emotional attachment but also physical touch.
 - iii. Picture: Nancy and I went so slow in our relationship, we did not hold hands until 2 and a half years into the relationship!
 - iv. Practice:
 1. Set up boundaries!
 2. This might mean not kissing, or not spending time late or alone.
- h. PRINCIPLE 3: Am I in God’s Word?
 - i. Principle: The Word is so important in our victory over sin and also rightful boundaries.
 - ii. Proof:
 1. Read **Proverbs 7:1-5**
 2. Specifically note **verse 5**: “*That they may keep you from an adulteress, From the foreigner who flatters with her words*”
 - iii. Picture: Nancy’s telling me to lead us to study the Word
 - iv. Practice:
 1. Get in God’s Word together in the relationship.
 2. Get in God’s Word individually when you guys are alone.
- i. PRINCIPLE 4: Am I doing the proper thing before the sight of the community?

- i. Principle: Our relationship is never in a vacuum; we belong to a community
- ii. Proof:
 1. Ruth trying to get Boaz attention in **Ruth 3**.
 2. Yet Boaz did not seduce Ruth but said “*Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence*” (v.11)
 - a. Notice though this was a very compromising position he was in yet right away he saw the need to do what is right in community.
 - b. Notice he wants to protect her reputation.
 - c. Ruth was known “*woman of excellence*”
 - i. This same exact phrase appears in **Proverbs 31:10** as “*An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.*”
 - ii. In all of Scripture only Ruth is describe as “*An excellent woman!*”
 3. One thing we learn from this story is that Ruth though she was “*An excellent woman*” can also be tempted to do that which is not prudent just like any godly woman.
 4. So Boaz did the right and see the happy consequences in **Ruth 4:13**: “*So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went in to her. And the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.*”
- iii. Picture: (Nepali wedding on Youtube and doing what is right so the community would celebrate God’s work!)
- iv. Practice:
 1. Count it a blessing to have others keeping you accountable and encouraged and even rebuking you in your relationship!
 2. Consider getting closer to others as a result in the relationship, it will help keep you from straying!
 3. Also be careful of a relationship that has hyper-privacy that can be the breeding ground for sin.
- v. **PRINCIPLE 5: Am I honoring Christ?**
 1. Principle: **1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:23**
 2. Picture: Rifle range
 3. Practice: Always ask the question: Am I honoring Christ?