

Boundaries In Marriage

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Setting Boundaries for Yourself

When you cease to blame your spouse and own the problem as yours, you are then empowered to make changes to solve your problem, releasing freedom into your marriage.

Removing the Plank Matt 7:5

3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

NIV

- > Key to Marriage Boundaries is when your spouse is secure that you are continuously evaluating and setting your own boundaries...in light of theirs.
- > Constant construction is needed to keep our hearts clear to hear from God.
- > God has a plan that keeps us:
 - >Examining our own heart in our marriage
 - >Open for the teaching of the Holy Spirit in our change.
 - >As part of His plan to be an avenue of change for our marriage...even if we are the one changing and not our spouse.
- > How do we know that there is a plank in our own eye?
 - > God reveals it to us.
 - His Word/Holy Spirit/Sermons etc
 - > God reveals it through our spouse.
 - > God reveals it through someone else
- > This is all about you being a clean vessel to minister into your spouse's life for the sake of your marriage. Jesus doesn't say we are not to take out the speck, just to be sure that we are ready to do so with clean hands and a pure heart.

Take Ownership of Our Stuff in the Marriage Matt 5:23/Matt 18:15

Matt 5:23-24

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

NIV

Matt 18:15-16

15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

NIV

- Why should I have to solve a problem I didn't cause?

Let's talk about this:

Why?

Did you really not cause any of the problem?

Share a time when you realized you were part of the problem all along?

- The key here is in the going to your "brother"...ie your spouse/family.
In one case you go unable to worship because your spouse is not happy with you.
Are we surprised?
Are we pretty sure why?
Are we ready to "own" the reason?
In the other case you are speaking the truth in love...once the plank is gone.
Are you owning your own cleansing?
Are you ready to minister life to your spouse and not "shame"

Freeing Your Spouse by Setting Limits With Yourself Matt 22:37-40

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." NIV

- Setting limits on your life through alienating it with the Word changes you and impacts your spouse.
- Your attitude becomes humble and open to hear the heart of your spouse.
- Humility open causes you to be more tender, empathetic, honest, and firm on your convictions. In other words, you are open to the move of the Holy Spirit in your life and in the life of your spouse.
 - You are growing spiritually, and your spouse is better off for it.
 - **ROAD BLOCK 1**
 - >Denial/ When we do not admit the truth of who we are, and what needs to change, we give our spouse no one with whom to connect.
 - > 1 John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (also Psalm 139: 23,24).
 - **ROAD BLOCK 2**
 - >Until you are consistent in your change expect a challenge from your spouse/family to your new boundaries. This is not to antagonize, it is to establish security for growth.
 - > You may feel like this is not worth it. If this is God's vision for your life, it includes your marriage as well AND IT IS WORTH IT!

The Greatest Benefit of Boundaries is to be VALUED Matt 7:12

12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. NIV

- Value is released when you honor a healthy/biblical boundary established by your spouse.
- When we know that someone values "the overflow of our heart", then we are aware of our value in the relationship as well. That creates a safe place from which to grow.
- Our one flesh relationship is realized as our spouse and as we change to reflect each other.
- Healthy grow and unified boundaries create the identity of our marriage.