

# Boundaries In Marriage

02-13-11

Pastor Ted Bichsel

To find recorded teachings and notes > [www.sgtmarriages.com](http://www.sgtmarriages.com)



## Boundary Values in Your Marriage

### Love of Your Spouse

To deeply identify with another person is to think about the effects of your behavior on that other person.

#### Values based on:

##### 1. **Empathy Gal 5:13-15**

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. NASU

- Sometimes our take on our Christian life shuts us down to the real needs of our spouse.
- Our neighbor/spouse needs to know that "someone is listening"...or else they will find someone who will.
- At thought: If we knew our spouse would hear us, we would not need the ears of others so intently.
  - >Women not heard will find an ear to value her.  
Mom, kids, co-workers, "face book" connections
  - >Men not heard will isolate and find comfort in something else.  
Work, sports/hobbies, pornography, aloneness
  - >Both men and women left alone too long will connect with an empathetic man or women "replacing" the spouse.

##### 2. **Commitment > Covenant Luke 9:62**

62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." NIV

- Key is the double hit: your marriage and your service in the Kingdom of God.
- God is faithful, but are we in the tough times?
- "for better or for worse/ in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, to love and to comfort, until death do us part.
- Start where you are right now and know that you are called with a vision to look ahead...not back.
- Commitment/covenant puts a whole new understanding on forgiveness/agape love/ and service

### 3. Action Gal 5:22-26

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. NIV

- These actions reveal the love you have...or don't have for your spouse.
- The Fruit of the Spirit is given to all Believers to live out in our lives and in our relationships. WE NEED TO CHOOSE TO RELEASE THIS FRUIT.
- Knowing that our spouse is choosing to operate in the fruit is about us growing together. When our motive is to please God and therefore minister action to others, we create safety and value....we are worth the efforts of our spouse's action.

### 4. A Big Picture/Nothing Hindering Phil 3:12-16

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, *but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.* 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 *I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.* 15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 *Only let us live up to what we have already attained.* NIV

- Humility means that I will keep learning. There is security in knowing my spouse wants to keep moving ahead.
- VS 13 One thing I do...I don't think I got it down and you need to get it together to make our marriage safe and successful.
- God's prize has to be a marriage that reflects all the teachings of the bible. We "strive" to live out 1 Corinthians 13, Eph 4 etc.
  - That is why we go to a class.
  - Why we attend church together.
  - Why we talk to each other as we walk through the learning we are doing.
  - The greatest thing that we are impacted by is the heart of our spouse growing in the Lord.
- Key here is change, when we push ahead we may need to change things/people/habits that hinder our hearts from connecting with God's heart for our marriage.

## SUMMARY

1. The boundaries of a healthy marriage contain a secure place to grow and change. There should be no safer place to be loved than in your marriage.
2. By taking these 4 areas and living them out you will establish the boundaries of loving each other.
3. The "loving your spouse" boundary also creates a safe place to protect us from "imposter love" trying to make its way in.