

Boundaries In Marriage

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Examining Your Boundaries

Do not mistake a lack of crisis as a sign that the marriage is healthy

Neh 8:8-12 What do we do with our new boundaries?

8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, *making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.* 9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. 10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. *This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.*" 11 The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve." 12 Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. NIV

- The people of Israel have now accomplished the building of the wall, stone by stone, gate by gate > all done family by family.
- At some point you have to see what the Lord has done and it is a sobering moment.
 - You realize your sin > repent
 - You realize your hope in Him not you or your spouse > grace
 - You realize that your whole marriage has changed > prophetic purpose
- God has opened new place of safety for you and your marriage. You are now able to rebuild to God's original covenant plan for you.
 - Eph 2:10 (more than a blessing) {Joe Mare testimony}
For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, *which God prepared in advance* for us to do. NIV
- There are times when you have to enjoy the fruit of your labor and celebrate the victory of building a safe boundary around your spouse and children.
 - Live a new life of priorities
 - Live without regret
 - Live knowing that *you will be learning* through life experiences, but with the full integrity of the boundaries you have established around your home.

1 Thess 5:13-18 Keeping the Boundaries In Tact

14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. 16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NIV

➤ Accept Reality

- You will always have to grow in your relational seasons in life.
- 7 Seasons of a marriage
- Emotional problems that you cannot predict> form family, jobs, life issues
- Financial challenges that reveal new priorities in your personal and individual life.
- Sexual difficulties
- Leaving and cleaving issues
- Not understanding “covering” and not sure if the boundaries are able to meet you in the next area of life. Re-examination of the boundaries and the gates:
 - As we get stronger we are able to be effective in fighting battles for others and not just ourselves.
 - Is it time to expand our boundaries to defend or help rebuild other marriage boundaries?

➤ Communicate your support to your spouse.

- As we grow we need to be supported...consistently
- Communication validates your spouse's identity and opens discussion regarding the condition of the boundaries
- Give support not criticism. joy/prayer/thanks> opens up your heart to know God's will.

➤ Face issues as real problems

- If there is a breach in the wall/boundary call it for what it is. Repair it don't ignore it or leave it unattended. The nature of the problem maybe the biggest validation of your new boundaries.
- Fear of the past might get in your way. Don't let it. The boundaries are OK keep going and letting the problem be your place of growth.

James 1:2-5

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

NIV

➤ Identify the Victories and Own the Defeats

- Identity and Destiny are defined by how we deal with these areas.
- The Victories> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- The Defeats> Not a place of conflict but a place of being sobered by our dependence on God for our marriage. Your conflict must be changed into a place of learning and:
 - Examining the walls
 - Examining the gates (the Spiritual Gates of Marriage)
- Connecting to the Master Builder for the plan