

A scenic view of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, a wooden boat with a canopy is on the water. The background features a large, dark rock formation on the left and a prominent, jagged rock formation in the distance. The sky is a clear, light blue.

Finding The Boundaries For Inheritance

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

Finding Boundaries for Your Inheritance.

Bear Your Own burdens.

Galatians 6:5 - For every man shall bear his own burden.

When you do your very best, you feel good about the results. There is no need to compare yourself with others.

People make comparisons for many reasons. Some point out others' flaws in order to feel better about themselves. Others simply want reassurance that they are doing well.

When you are tempted to compare, look at Jesus Christ. His example will inspire you to do your very best, and his loving acceptance will comfort you when you fall short of your expectations.

Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 6:14 - Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

Paul urges believers to not "team up," that is, form partnerships with unbelievers because this might weaken their Christian commitment, integrity, or standards.

It would be a mismatch. Earlier, Paul had explained that this did not mean isolating oneself from unbelievers (see 1 Corinthians 5:9, 10).

Paul even urges Christians to stay with their unbelieving spouses (1 Corinthians 7:12, 13).

He wanted believers to be active in their witness for Christ to unbelievers but not lock themselves into personal or business relationships that could cause them to compromise their faith.

Believers should do everything in their power to avoid situations that could force them to divide their loyalties.

These verses also have strong application to marriage.

Paul did not want single believers to enter into marriage with unbelievers. Such marriages cannot have unity in the most important issue in life—commitment and obedience to God.

Because marriage involves two people becoming one, faith may become an issue, and one spouse may have to compromise beliefs for the sake of unity.

Many people discount this problem only to regret it later. Don't allow emotion or passion to bind you with someone who will not be your spiritual partner.

For those who have discovered God's light, there can be no fellowship or compromise with darkness (1 Corinthians 10:20, 21).

God has determined the boundaries for your habitations.

Acts 17:26 - And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Paul explained the one true God to these educated men of Athens; although these men were, in general, very religious, they did not know God. Today we have a "Christian" society, but to most people, God is still unknown. We need to proclaim who he is and make clear what he did for everyone through his Son, Jesus Christ. We cannot assume that even religious people around us truly know Jesus or understand the importance of faith in him.

Let your speech always be with grace.

Colossians 4:6 - Let your speech [be] always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

When we tell others about Christ, it is important always to be gracious in what we say. No matter how much sense the message makes, we lose our effectiveness if we are not courteous. Just as we like to be respected, we must respect others if we want them to listen to what we have to say.

Turn away wrath by speaking softly.

Proverbs 15:1 - A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Have you ever tried to argue in a whisper? It is equally hard to argue with someone who insists on answering gently. On the other hand, a rising voice and harsh words almost always trigger an angry response. To turn away wrath and seek peace, choose gentle words.

Great wrath brings punishment.

Proverbs 19:19 - A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver [him], yet thou must do it again.

Speaking to others in wrath nullifies our witness and results in punishment.

Make no friendship with an angry man.

Proverbs 22:24 - Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

People tend to become like those with whom they spend a lot of time. Even the negative characteristics and habits can rub off.

The Bible exhorts us to be cautious in our choice of companions. Choose people with qualities you would like to develop in your own life.

The Lord is the portion of my inheritance.

Psalm 16:5-9

The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintains my lot. [6] The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage. [7] I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. [8] I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. [9] Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

It is human nature to make our own plans and *then* ask God to bless them. Instead, we should seek God's will first. By constantly thinking about the Lord and his way of living, we will gain insights that will help us make right decisions and live the way God desires. Communicating with God allows him to counsel us and give us wisdom.

Look not on a woman to lust after her.

Matthew 5:28 - But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Some think that if lustful thoughts are sin, why shouldn't a person go ahead and do the lustful actions, too?

Acting out sinful desires is harmful in several ways:

- (1) It causes people to excuse sin rather than to stop sinning;
- (2) It destroys marriages;
- (3) It is deliberate rebellion against God's Word;
- (4) It always hurts someone else in addition to the sinner.

Sinful actions are more dangerous than sinful desires, and that is why desires should not be acted out. Nevertheless, sinful desires are just as damaging to obedience.

Left unchecked, wrong desires will result in wrong actions and turn people away from God.

Bear one another's burdens.

Galatians 6:2 - Bear you one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

No Christian should ever think that he or she is totally independent and doesn't need help from others, and no one should feel excused from the task of helping others. The body of Christ—the church—functions only when the members work together for the common good.

Do you know someone who needs help? Is there a Christian brother or sister who needs correction or encouragement? Humbly and gently reach out to that person offering to lift his or her load ([John 13:34, 35](#)).

Think about things that are true and honest.

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things [are] just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things [are] lovely,

whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if [there be] any praise, think on these things.

What we put into our mind determines what comes out in our words and actions.

Paul tells us to program our mind with thoughts that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and worthy of praise. Do you have problems with impure thoughts and daydreams?

Examine what you are putting into your mind through television, Internet, books, conversations, movies, and magazines. Replace harmful input with wholesome material. Above all, read God's Word and pray.

Ask God to help you focus your mind on what is good and pure. It takes practice, but it can be done.

You have a goodly heritage.

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[6] The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

[7] I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

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By saying that he "will not be shaken," David was talking about the unique sense of security felt by believers.

God does not exempt believers from the day-to-day circumstances of life. Believers and unbelievers alike experience pain, trouble, and failure at times ([Matthew 5:45](#)).

Unbelievers have a sense of hopelessness about life and confusion over their true purpose on earth. Those who seek God, however, can move ahead, confident in knowing what is right in God's eyes. They know that God will keep them from straying off his chosen path.

Avoid uncleanness and filthy talking.

Ephesians 5:1-4

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; [2] and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour. [3] But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; [4] neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Just as children imitate their parents, we should follow God's example. His great love for us led him to sacrifice himself so that we might live. Our love for others should be of the same kind—a love that goes beyond affection to self-sacrificing service.

Obscene stories and coarse jokes are so common that we begin to take them for granted. Paul cautions, however, that improper language should have no place in the Christian's conversation because it does not reflect God's gracious presence in us. How can we praise God and remind others of his goodness when we are speaking coarsely?

The Lord will establish the border of the widow.

Proverbs 15:25 - The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

People with tunnel vision—those who are locked into one way of thinking—are likely to miss the right road because they have closed their minds to any new options.

We need the help of those who can enlarge our vision and broaden our perspective.

Seek out the advice of those who know you and have a wealth of experience. Build a network of advisers. Then be open to new ideas, and be willing to weigh their suggestions carefully. Your plans will be stronger and more likely to succeed.

Do not offend God's little ones.

Mark 9:42-50

And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

[43] And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

[44] Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. [45] And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: [46] Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

[47] And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: [48] Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. [49] For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.

[50] Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

This caution against harming little ones in the faith applies both to what we do individually as teachers and examples and to what we allow to fester in our Christian fellowship. Our thoughts and actions must be motivated by love (1 Corinthians 13), and we must be careful about judging others (Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 14:1-15:4).

However, we also have a responsibility to confront flagrant sin within the church (1 Corinthians 5:12, 13).

Matthew 5:13 - Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Mark 9:50 - Salt [is] good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.

Jesus used salt to illustrate three qualities that should be found in his people:

(1) *We should remember God's faithfulness, just as salt when used with a sacrifice recalled God's covenant with his people ([Leviticus 2:13](#)).*

(2) *We should make a difference in the "flavor" of the world we live in, just as salt changes meat's flavor (see [Matthew 5:13](#)).*

(3) *We should counteract the moral decay in society, just as salt preserves food from decay. When we lose this desire to "salt" the earth with the love and message of God, we become useless to him.*



Prayer to salvation.

Lord God in heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus.

I acknowledge to you that I am a sinner, and

I am sorry for my sins and the life that I have lived;

I need your forgiveness.

I believe that your only begotten Son Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross at Calvary and died for my sins, and I am now willing to turn from my sin.

Your Holy Word declares in Romans 10:9 that if we confess the Lord our God and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, we shall be saved.

Right now I confess Jesus as the Lord of my soul. With my heart, I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead.

This very moment I accept Jesus Christ as my own personal Savior and according to His Word, right now I am saved. Amen

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation and others.

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print