



Understanding Boundaries is Essential

There's no need to remind you we are in a spiritual battle and that we need to know how to fight. Interestingly, our foremost weapon is our *exousia* (spiritual authority), not “the sword of the Spirit” or “the word of God”. If we can't use our *exousia*, we are easy pickings for our enemy.

Boundaries are the limits we put on ourselves or others for the success on relationships and group functionality. They are ‘walls’ of convention which are established to prevent others from crossing over into areas where interpersonal relationships are put under stress.

Boundaries can be simple, such as having a child put up their hand in a school class to ask a question. But, they can be more complex as they are between a boss and their employees.

Boundaries are protocols of behaviour what are established for protection. These protocols can be written or unwritten. Whichever way they are formulated, they need to be adhered to by all the connected people so that peace is maintained.

Games of sport have boundaries so they function a certain way and appropriately protect the players. These are included in the rules of the game and are a set of written boundaries. For example:

- The referee must not be touched by any soccer player.
- When the hockey ball crosses the goal line, a goal is scored.
- The sound of the whistle stops a rugby game for the umpire to adjudicate the penalty.
- Ten minutes is the limit of time a chess play has to make a move.

Without rules, games and sport cannot be guided to function in a specific way. Similarly, in life boundaries are designed to produce desirable outcomes and eliminate undesirable ones. Some societal rules are:

- A person looks at the one who is speaking to them.
- Men should hug women in a way that doesn't evoke sexual feelings in either of them.
- Visitors wait to be invited into a house by the occupant when they come to the door.
- It is wrong to borrow another person's belongings without asking.
- The nation's laws set a huge number of boundaries.

Boundaries are also set by our Creator for the benefit of individuals and for the benefit of society. For example:

- After The Fall, humans were not permitted to re-enter Eden, which was on the holy Mountain of God.
- Marriage is for a man and a women.
- Bestiality is not to be practised.
- The Israelites were told not to intermarry with the Canaanite tribes.
- Meat offered to idols should not be eaten when a new believer is present.
- Transgression is stepping over God's boundaries.

Remember, boundaries are for safety, for both individuals, groups and societies. The boundaries vary with each of these arrangements, but the premise is that they are adhered to or complied with because it's better that way for everyone.



It is not commonly known that the spirit realm also operates within sets of boundaries. Each being in Heaven has limits (boundaries) for which they are forbidden to violate. Departed saints waiting in Heaven for the return of the King have roles/functions and limitations. Angels ('messengers') have roles/functions and limitations. It was the *elohim* (sons of God) – also called 'watchers'¹ or "angels"² – who crossed the boundaries set for them and took wives of human women.³ For this and the evil that they released onto the earth they are imprisoned in Tartarus waiting for the Day of Judgement and their final lot in the Lake of Fire.

Humans who are multi-faceted spirit beings also have functions and limitations, but they additionally have rights and privileges that the rest of the heavenly beings don't have.

Even Lucifer has boundaries. He hasn't been restrained in chains or destroyed as yet, but is still operating as "the Accuser of the Brethren"⁴ for God's purposes. He has limited power, limited knowledge and there are strong boundaries placed on what he is able to do to people.

How does boundaries relate to spiritual authority?

Those who don't understand boundaries and those who refuse to follow them will not be able to operate properly in spiritual authority because spiritual authority is based on spiritual boundaries. Stepping over spiritual boundaries spells trouble.

IMPORTANT: Read my teaching Document "Boundaries in Community"⁵ to get an understanding of the need for and the use of boundaries among followers of Jesus.

[See a resource list for boundaries on the next page]

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1 – The Book of Enoch

2 – Jude 1:6

3 – Genesis 6:1-4

4 – Revelation 12:10

5 – canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Boundaries-in-Community.pdf



RESOURCES

Free Downloads

- Henry Cloud – “Boundaries Kickstart Guide”
(www.boundariesbooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Boundaries-Kickstart-Guide.pdf)
- Henry Cloud – “Control Freaks Make Great Leaders”
(www.boundariesbooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Control-Freaks-Make-Great-Leaders.pdf)
- Henry Cloud – “Boundaries Leader's Guide - Cloud Townsend Resources”
(www.cloudtownsend.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Boundaries-New-Revised-DVD-Facilitator-Guide_-Revised0812.pdf)
- Henry Cloud – “BOUNDARIES: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Take Control of Your Life”
(cwjc.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Boundaries.pdf)
- Henry Cloud – “Boundaries Builder 5-Day Challenge”
(www.boundariesbooks.com/articles/boundaries-builder-5-day-challenge)

Books

- Henry Cloud & John Townsend – “BOUNDARIES: When to Say Yes, When to Say No to Take Control of Your Life” (Amazon or Koorong)
- Henry Cloud – “Boundaries for Leaders” (Amazon or Koorong)
- Henry Cloud & John Townsend – “Boundaries with Kids” (Amazon or Koorong)
- John Townsend – “Boundaries with Teens: When to Say Yes, How to Say No...” (Amazon or Koorong)
- Henry Cloud & John Townsend – “Boundaries in Dating: How Healthy Choices Grow Healthy Relationships” (Amazon)
- Henry Cloud & John Townsend – “Boundaries in Marriage” (Amazon or Koorong)
- John Townsend – “Beyond Boundaries: Learning to Trust Again in Relationships” (Amazon or Koorong)