

# boundaries

between you and me | week four

post falls campus | january 29<sup>th</sup> & february 1<sup>st</sup> | jim putman



## Boundaries | God's Design for Deep and Trustworthy Relationships

A Biblical Definition of a Boundary: A boundary is a wise, God-directed limit on access, influence, and responsibility, established to protect what is holy, preserve trust, and promote restored relationships.

### Why Boundaries Matter

- Without healthy boundaries, a relationship becomes an idea rather than a reality
- If you don't have healthy boundaries, it impacts everyone you can and should impact

#### **Proverbs 12:15 (NIV)**

Teaching Emphasis:

Wisdom is not trusting my instincts alone. Wisdom is putting the right boundaries around my:

- Time
- Energy
- Focus
- Attention
- Access

### Boundaries Begin with God's Priorities

If we try to have deep relationship with everyone, we end up with deep relationship with no one. Biblical order of priority:

- God | Abiding relationship
- Family | First human responsibility
- Church | Spiritual family helps us learn about other right boundaries (Discipleship)
- Others | Compassion without neglect

#### **1 Timothy 5:8 (NIV)**

Teaching emphasis: Spiritual activity never excuses relational neglect at home. Neglecting family is not devotion; it is denial.

### Boundaries Are Based on Trustworthiness

- Healthy relationships require shared values and a shared definition of trustworthiness.
- Boundaries are not about judgment — they are about stewardship.
- Not all relationships are meant to carry the same weight, access, or influence.

#### **Matthew 7:6 (NIV) | 2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV) | Proverbs 9:7-8 (NIV)**

# Boundaries Sometimes Require Distance for the Sake of Restoration

Principle: Discipline is not punishment – it is protection with redemption in view.

Example: The Prodigal Son

**Luke 15:11–32** (summary emphasis)

- The father allows separation
- Consequences of the teaching
- Repentance precedes restoration
- Restoration is full, not probationary

“For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” (v.24)

Church Discipline Example

**1 Corinthians 5:1–5 (NIV) | 2 Corinthians 2:6–8 (NIV)**“

Teaching emphasis:

Love sometimes steps back so repentance can step forward.

## Boundaries Between Men and Women (Guarding Hearts & Witness)

Cultural reality: Our culture minimizes difference; Scripture calls for wisdom and care.

Pastoral insight (Dave Carder):

“Most people do not plan to have an affair. It is the result of poor boundaries.”

- Affairs rarely begin with intent; they begin when good people fail to guard emotional and relational boundaries.

The Key to figuring out the right boundaries – Biblical guidance

**Titus 2:3–5 (NIV) | 1 Thessalonians 5:22 (KJV) | Romans 14:13 (NIV) | 1 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)**

Teaching Emphasis:

Boundaries Protect:

- Hearts
- Marriages
- Friendship
- Reputations
- The Credibility of the Gospel

## How We Learn and Maintain Healthy Boundaries

**Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIV) | Proverbs 11:14 (NIV) | Proverbs 15:22 (NIV)**

Boundaries are not built by willpower alone;

They are learned through humility, counsel, and submission to God.

