

**Ron Armstrong • August 31 & September 1, 2019**

**Boundaries: Me, Not Me**

Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters ... 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. 4 Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, 5 for each one should carry their own load. 7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Matthew 20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 "About nine in the morning he went out and saw ... 5 ... "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out ... 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

**A. A boundary is an invisible PROPERTY line.**

1. Boundaries are about defining where I end and someone else begins.
  - a. It doesn't wall people out and me in. If there is a fence, there's a GATE.
  - b. It helps me know what is my stuff and what is someone else's stuff.

c. It allows me to let good in and keep BAD out.

d. Boundaries help me know when to say "yes" and when to say "no."

2. A few signs of a boundary problem:
  - a. A relationship or an area of life has stopped working or is in constant conflict.
  - b. You are giving and helping someone else, but feel RESENTFUL about it.
  - c. Irresponsible and happy are incorrectly aligned.

Irresponsible

Unhappy

Responsible

Happy

3. Boundaries help me differentiate between "BOULDERS" and "loads." If you don't know the difference, you'll never figure out how much to help.

4. Appropriate boundaries will eventually bless BOTH landowners.

**B. Some of my tools and my goals:**

1. What do I have to work with?
  - a. My WORDS.
  - b. Other people.
  - c. GEOGRAPHICAL and emotional distance.
  - d. Appropriate CONSEQUENCES.
2. What do I need to get inside? What do I need to take ownership of and responsibility for?
  - a. My feelings.
  - b. My choices.
  - c. My behaviors.