

Ron Armstrong • September 7 & 8, 2019

Boundaries: They're About Both of Us

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.

The Good Samaritan and boundaries.

The Prodigal Son, his brother, and boundaries.

A. A recurring boundary problem usually has two participants with poor boundaries.

1. Initially, a boundary conflict may be because of an UNARTICULATED boundary. You haven't pointed out the property line.
 - a. You gently point it out.
 - b. You hold the person accountable for respecting the boundary.
2. Recurring boundary problems.
 - a. Boundaries are our job, not their job.
 - b. We are the "LOCUS of control."
 - c. We are PARTICIPANTS whether we are having our boundary violated or violating someone else's boundary.
3. Our struggles with boundaries will tend to follow certain patterns or combinations of patterns.

Can't say	The Compliant: Feels guilty and/or controlled by others and can't set boundaries.	The Nonresponsive: Sets boundaries against responsibility to love, care, or show kindness.
Can't hear	The Controller: Aggressively or manipulatively violates the boundaries of others.	The Avoider: Sets boundaries against receiving care, love, or closeness with others.

4. Having good FUNCTIONAL boundaries can hide a relational boundary problem, but only for a while.

B. A few helpful concepts about how boundaries work.

1. Law of sowing and reaping. We usually get what we create or ALLOW.
2. Law of responsibility. You are responsible for your "self," and I am responsible for my "self." Others can't GROW for us.
3. Law of nothing but bad choices. When holding someone accountable for a boundary, sometimes all the choices are bad.
 - a. Just allowing the violation to continue wounds you BOTH.
 - b. There is a difference between hurting and harming.
 - c. If you protect the boundary, you have hope for the future. Allowing the violation to just continue has no hope at all.
4. Law of enabling. The continual help the enabler gives becomes the SOURCE of destruction.

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