

SERMON NOTES - Childish Boundaries

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

1Co 13:11 HNV - "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child. Now that I have become a man, I have put away **childish** things."

1. BRIEF RECAP - We must be childLIKE not Childish

Mar 10:15 NKJV — "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child (CHILDLIKE) will by no means enter it."

1 Co 14:20 (NKJV) "Brethren, do not be children in **understanding**; however, in **malice** be babes, but in **understanding** be mature."

"Childlikeness" = TRUST, HUMILITY, DEPENDENCE, INNOCENCE, PURITY

2. We must PUT AWAY Childish things.

We must be intentional and ruthless. In order to do this we must know what these childish things are, AND keep the childlike things.

3. When I was a child I didn't have BOUNDARIES

THE FOUR ASPECTS OF BOUNDARIES:

There are 4 aspects of boundaries: A boundary is a property line that demarcates ...

- what I **own**,
- what I can **enjoy** unencumbered,
- what I **control**,
- what I am **responsible** for

Ownership:

Exo 20:15, 17 NKJV - "15 "You shall not steal. ... 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour's.""

Enjoyment:

1Ti 6:17 NKJV - "17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy."

The promised land was delineated and was given for enjoyment: Num 34:1, Ex 3:8

Control / Decide:

Jos 24:15 NKJV - "15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.""

Deu 30:19 NKJV - "19 "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;"

Responsibility / Consequences:

Gen 2:17 NKJV - "17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.""

Examples = A next door neighbour who tells you how to decorate your house OR lets their tree grow into your yard and then they expect you to cut it.

A family member whose bad choices affect the rest of the family and they expect you to pick up the consequences of their choices.

We must be good neighbours and respect others' property lines. The issues are ownership, responsibility, control, respect and these are all things that God speaks about, cares about, and gives to people, BUT Children don't have them to the same degree that adults do.

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD TREATED ADULTS AND CHILDREN DIFFERENTLY:

Num 1:3 NKJV — "3 "from twenty years old and above—all who are able to go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies."

Num 14:31 NKJV - "31 'But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.'" (See also verse 29 where He defines children as being under 20 years old)

Num 1:18 NKJV — "18 and they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month; and they recited their ancestry by families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, each one individually."

JUDGEMENT IS AN INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE:

Judgement day in the Bible is spoken of as an INDIVIDUAL judgement ("each one") - 2 Cor 5:10, 1 Cor 4:5, Matt 12:36, 1Co 3:11-15

Children are not judged - they are already saved. Matt 18:1-14

Pro 23:10-11 NIV — "10 Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless, 11 for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you."

2 Cor 10:12-18 - we each have a "sphere" of control, responsibility and ministry that God has given us

Pro 25:28 NIV — "28 Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control."

Self control is a fruit of the Spirit - Gal 5:22-23

2Ti 1:7 NKJV - "7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (or self-control)."

SYMPTOMS OF A LACK OF BOUNDARIES:

1. We try to overstep other people's boundaries to control, judge or influence them in an unhealthy way. This is "trespassing". Mat 6:14 NKJV - "14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."
Rom 14:4 NKJV - "4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand."
2. Expecting others to pick up the consequences of my own actions or decisions.
3. We can't say "no" and we allow or expect others to tell us what to do.

Psa 16:5-6 NIV — "5 LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance."

How do we as **parents** help our children have boundaries?

1. Treat them with Respect and value as individuals. Don't demean or disrespect them
2. Transition from control to...LOVE + CHOICES + CONSEQUENCES
3. Encourage and expect them to make choices and respect those choices (without withholding love if they choose different to your own ideas)
4. As they grow, increasingly allow them to experience the consequences of their actions without always protecting and sheltering them

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.