



WEEK 2: Boundaries = Freedom

SCRIPTURE

Titus 2:12 - "And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God."

Galatians 5:24 - 25 - "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."

1 John 2: 15 - 16 - "Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world."

Matthew 5:16 - "In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

APPLICATION

What do you think of when you think of boundaries? Do you have a negative or positive reaction when you hear that word? In our society, boundaries aren't celebrated, they're condemned. We're supposed to "Do what makes us happy!" and "If it's not hurting anyone, then go for it!" Today's world tells us that life is all about ME. Everything is inward focused. God has a different perspective. He wants us to devote our lives to serving and loving Him and His people. Because He loves us, He's laid out the best, most honorable way to live all throughout the Bible. Those boundaries aren't meant to keep us hidden away from the world to live a boring life. They're meant to free us, to allow us to be the joy-filled,

purposeful people we were designed to be. Boundaries help us to sharpen our discernment which then allows us to make godly and smart decisions - decisions that help us live according to God's will.

Boundaries = freedom. Boundaries = peace. *And boundaries absolutely = purpose.*

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of relationship do you have with boundaries? Why?
2. What area of your life could you apply better discernment?
3. Re-read Galatians 5:24 - 25. What "passions and desires of a sinful nature" can you nail to the cross this week?

Homework: Write down Matthew 5:16 EVERY DAY this week and say it out loud. This is your memory verse for the week. Recite it to a friend if you're brave enough!

PRAYER

Lord - boundaries can be tough. My sinful nature rebels against them, but I know that You establish boundaries because You love me. You've proven that over and over again. I'm sorry that I lose sight of this and I pray for wisdom and discernment to guide my life. I pray that I let go of my worldly desires and seek Your will for my life. I pray that my dreams become Your dreams. I pray that I use my life to serve You and love Your people. Thank you for Your goodness and for Your Son. In Jesus name, AMEN.

Take your time with the study.. Read through the scripture mentioned above - familiarize yourself with the context of the verses. Talk about freedom in Christ with your community. Pray

about using your freedom well every day. Above everything else,
thank God for it!

YOU'VE GOT THIS, Y'ALL!