



## DANIEL in the BOUNDARIES DEN

### Learning to be Responsible & Take Ownership of Your Life

Are you in control of your life? Do people take advantage of you? Do you have trouble saying no? Christian men are often taught to be so loving and giving that they forget their own limits and limitations? Jesus taught that we need to know when to say YES and how to say NO. This study will guide you in how sound boundaries give you the freedom to walk as the loving, responsible, mature man God created and intended you to be. God gives us a model of such a mature man in Scripture through Daniel. While still a young man, Daniel travelled to Babylon with a group of young Israelite nobles, men of promise whom the conquering power felt could be of use in service. Daniel shows us how to set boundaries to faithfully walk with God in the middle of a secular world.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

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God & Boundaries

September 12, 2019

A Man must be equipped to set boundaries

**Bible Verses:** Daniel 1:1-21; Proverbs 14:10; Galatians 6:1-5; Matthew 7:6; I John 1:6-10; James 5:16; Mark 7:21-23; Hebrews 12:1,2; I John 4:16; Psalm 119:1-8; Psalm 119:41-48;

**Music:** Calysta Bevier - Golden Buzzer - Fight Song By Rachel Platten  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNEY-DTOTO>

**Videos:** Hoosiers - Dennis Hopper scene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuO-E0uRrhY>

**Resources:** *BOUNDARIES – When to Say Yes – How to say No to Take Control of Your Life* by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend  
*Standing Your Ground – Messages on Daniel – A Call to Courage in an Age of Compromise* by Bryan Chapell.

### Daniel – The Model of Boundaries

The book of Daniel is the story of some of God's people who are taken to live in Babylon. One of the main themes of the book is how people can live for God in a "pagan" land.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Daniel refused to yield. He escaped severe temptation to compromise his spiritual integrity, but—despite constant cultural pressures he refused to yield.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → Daniel embraced personal risks to his commitment to set boundaries of holiness—to be set apart, to be different.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → Daniel never minimized the risks of holiness. He never pretended that living for the Lord would be painless, easy, or always fun—for then he would be abandoning and abusing those who have suffered for their stand. Whenever we pretend that holiness is easy, we fail to prepare those who must take a stand in this world.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → Daniel was prepared to suffer. Holiness is not a matter of minimizing consequences but of preparing for them. No battle is "unfair" for an individual believer who has recognized that the risks are real for all who will stand for holiness and set the boundaries that make them distinct. Jesus modeled such holiness (Hebrews 12:1,2).

### Boundaries – What is a Boundary?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Boundaries define **what is me** and **what is not me**. A boundary shows me where I end and someone else begins, leading to a sense of ownership. Knowing what I am to own and take responsibility for gives me freedom. The Bible tells us clearly what our parameters are and how to protect them, but often our family, or other past relationships, confuses us about our parameters (Prov. 14:10).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → We are responsible **to** others and **for** ourselves. Gal. 6:2 shows our responsibility **to** one another. The Greek word for burden means "excess burdens, or burdens that are so heavy that they weight us down. Gal. 6:5 shows we are responsible **for** ourselves. The Greek word for load means "cargo" or "the burden of daily toil." This word describes the everyday things we all need to do.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → Boundaries helps us keep the good in and the bad out. They guard our treasures (Matt. 7:6) so that people will not steal them. They keep the pearls inside, and the pigs outside. Confessing pain and sin helps to "get it out" so that it does not continue to poison me on the inside (I John 1:9; James 5:16; Mark 7:21-23).

### God & Boundaries – God is a distinct, separate being, and He is responsible for Himself.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → God defines and takes responsibility for His personality by telling us what He thinks, feels, plans, allows, will not allow, likes & dislikes. See I John 1:6; 4:16.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are one, but at the same time they are distinct persons with their own boundaries. Each one has His own personality and responsibilities, as well as a connection and love for one another. See John 17:24.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → God confronts sin and allows consequences for behavior. He guards His house and will not allow evil things to go there. He invites people in who will love Him, and He lets His love flow outward to them at the same time. The "gates" of His boundaries open and close appropriately.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → He gave us his "likeness" (Gen. 1:26). He gave us personal responsibility within limits. He wants us to "rule and subdue" the earth and to be responsible stewards over the life He has given us.

### Boundaries – Anything that helps to differentiate you from someone else or shows where you begin and end. Examples:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → Your physical self is the first way that you learn that you are separate from others.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → The most basic boundary-setting word is **NO**.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → To be in touch with God's truth is to be in touch with reality, and to live in accord with that reality makes for a better life (Ps. 119:2, 45).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → Sometimes you need to remove yourself physically from a situation (Prov. 22:3).
5. \_\_\_\_\_ → Time apart may be necessary to improve a relationship.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ → Give your heart the space it needs to be safe.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ → You need to depend on others to help you set and keep boundaries.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ → This teaches others that our commitment to living according to helpful values is something we value and will fight to protect and guard.

### Action – Journal This!

1. For what are you "set apart" to do Today?
2. Name 3 things you regret NOT saying "NO" to this week?
3. Where do you need to set a boundary with a person, thing or circumstance this week?

## Bible Verses – The Message

**Daniel 1:1-21** - <sup>1</sup> It was the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon declared war on Jerusalem and besieged the city. <sup>2</sup> The Master handed King Jehoiakim of Judah over to him, along with some of the furnishings from the Temple of God. Nebuchadnezzar took king and furnishings to the country of Babylon, the ancient Shinar. He put the furnishings in the sacred treasury. <sup>3</sup> The king told Ashpenaz, head of the palace staff, to get some Israelites from the royal family and nobility <sup>4</sup> - young men who were healthy and handsome, intelligent and well-educated, good prospects for leadership positions in the government, perfect specimens! - and indoctrinate them in the Babylonian language and the lore of magic and fortunetelling. <sup>5</sup> The king then ordered that they be served from the same menu as the royal table - the best food, the finest wine. After three years of training they would be given positions in the king's court. <sup>6</sup> Four young men from Judah - Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah - were among those selected. <sup>7</sup> The head of the palace staff gave them Babylonian names: Daniel was named Belteshazzar, Hananiah was named Shadrach, Mishael was named Meshach, Azariah was named Abednego. <sup>8</sup> But Daniel determined that he would not defile himself by eating the king's food or drinking his wine, so he asked the head of the palace staff to exempt him from the royal diet. <sup>9</sup> The head of the palace staff, by God's grace, liked Daniel, <sup>10</sup> but he warned him, "I'm afraid of what my master the king will do. He is the one who assigned this diet and if he sees that you are not as healthy as the rest, he'll have my head!" <sup>11</sup> But Daniel appealed to a steward who had been assigned by the head of the palace staff to be in charge of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: <sup>12</sup> "Try us out for ten days on a simple diet of vegetables and water. <sup>13</sup> Then compare us with the young men who eat from the royal menu. Make your decision on the basis of what you see." <sup>14</sup> The steward agreed to do it and fed them vegetables and water for ten days. <sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked better and more robust than all the others who had been eating from the royal menu. <sup>16</sup> So the steward continued to exempt them from the royal menu of food and drink and served them only vegetables. <sup>17</sup> God gave these four young men knowledge and skill in both books and life. In addition, Daniel was gifted in understanding all sorts of visions and dreams. <sup>18</sup> At the end of the time set by the king for their training, the head of the royal staff brought them in to Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> When the king interviewed them, he found them far superior to all the other young men. None were a match for Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. <sup>20</sup> Whenever the king consulted them on anything, on books or on life, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his kingdom put together. <sup>21</sup> Daniel continued in the king's service until the first year in the reign of King Cyrus.

**Proverbs 14:10** - <sup>10</sup> The person who shuns the bitter moments of friends will be an outsider at their celebrations.

**Galatians 6:1-5** - <sup>1</sup> Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. <sup>2</sup> Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. <sup>3</sup> If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived. <sup>4</sup> Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with

yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. <sup>5</sup> Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.

**Matthew 7:6** - <sup>6</sup> "Don't be flip with the sacred. Banter and silliness give no honor to God. Don't reduce holy mysteries to slogans. In trying to be relevant, you're only being cute and inviting sacrilege.

**I John 1:6-10** - <sup>6</sup> If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth - we're not living what we claim. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin. <sup>8</sup> If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. <sup>9</sup> On the other hand, if we admit our sins - make a clean breast of them - he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing. <sup>10</sup> If we claim that we've never sinned, we out-and-out contradict God - make a liar out of him. A claim like that only shows off our ignorance of God.

**James 5:16** - <sup>16</sup> Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.

**Mark 7:21-23** - <sup>21</sup> obscenities, lusts, thefts, murders, adulteries, <sup>22</sup> greed, depravity, deceptive dealings, carousing, mean looks, slander, arrogance, foolishness - <sup>23</sup> all these are vomit from the heart. There is the source of your pollution."

**Hebrews 12:1,2** - <sup>1</sup> Do you see what this means - all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running - and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. <sup>2</sup> Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed - that exhilarating finish in and with God - he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.

**I John 4:16** - <sup>16</sup> We know it so well, we've embraced it heart and soul, this love that comes from God.

**Psalms 119:1-8** - <sup>1</sup> You're blessed when you stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God. <sup>2</sup> You're blessed when you follow his directions, doing your best to find him. <sup>3</sup> That's right - you don't go off on your own; you walk straight along the road he set. <sup>4</sup> You, God, prescribed the right way to live; now you expect us to live it. <sup>5</sup> Oh, that my steps might be steady, keeping to the course you set; <sup>6</sup> Then I'd never have any regrets in comparing my life with your counsel. <sup>7</sup> I thank you for speaking straight from your heart; I learn the pattern of your righteous ways. <sup>8</sup> I'm going to do what you tell me to do; don't ever walk off and leave me.

**Psalms 119:41-48** - <sup>41</sup> Let your love, God, shape my life with salvation, exactly as you promised; <sup>42</sup> Then I'll be able to stand up to mockery because I trusted your Word. <sup>43</sup> Don't ever deprive me of truth, not ever - your commandments are what I depend on. <sup>44</sup> Oh, I'll guard with my life what you've revealed to me, guard it now, guard it ever; <sup>45</sup> And I'll stride freely through wide open spaces as I look for your truth and your wisdom; <sup>46</sup> Then I'll tell the world what I find, speak out boldly in public, unembarrassed. <sup>47</sup> I cherish your commandments - oh, how I love them! - <sup>48</sup> relishing every fragment of your counsel.

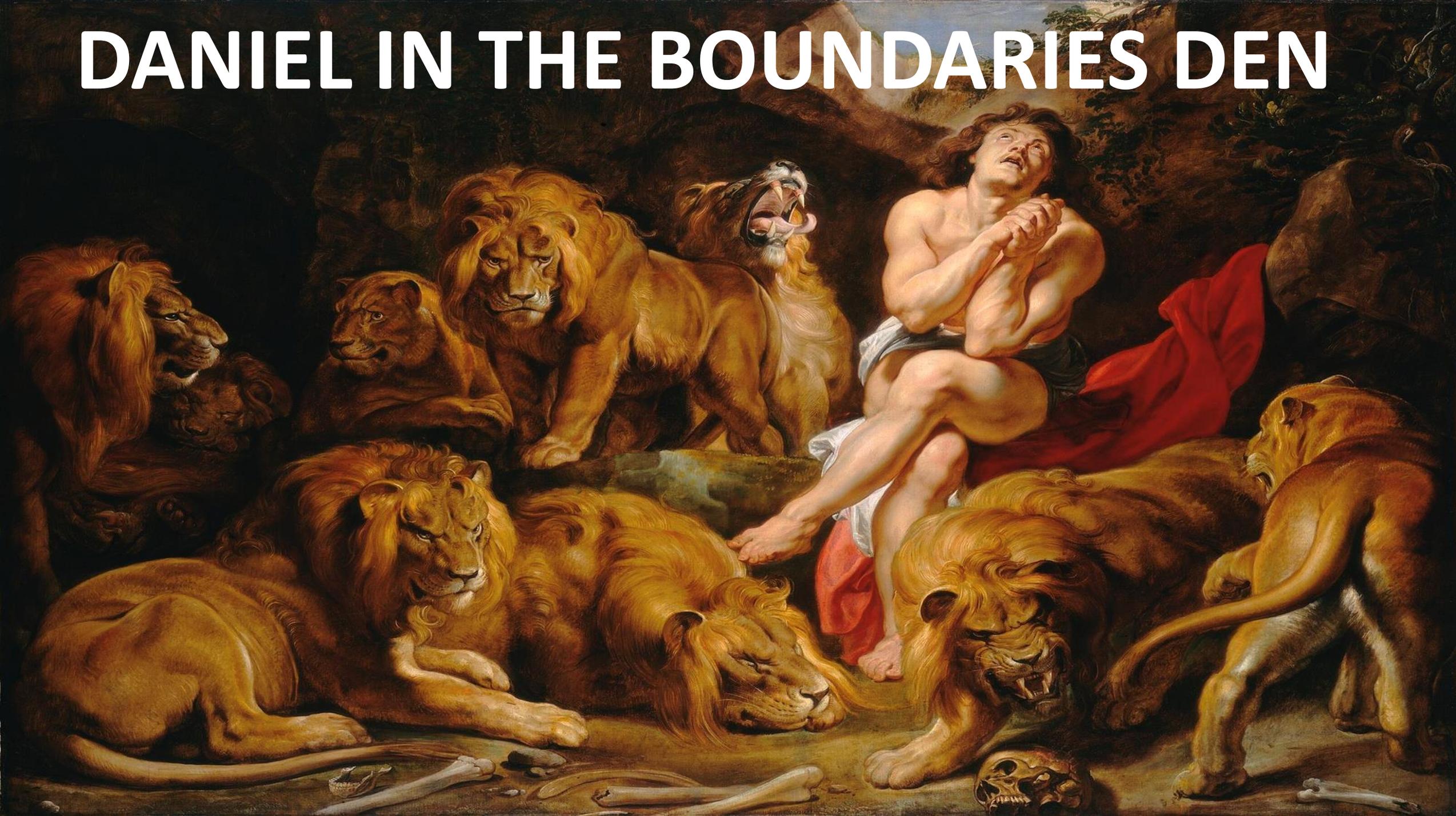
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## **God & Boundaries**

*Daniel 1:3-8*

# Daniel – The Model of Boundaries

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2. **Commit to Holiness** → Daniel embraced personal risks to his commitment to set boundaries of holiness—to be set apart, to be different.
3. **Count the Cost** → Daniel never minimized the risks of holiness. He never pretended that living for the Lord would be painless, easy, or always fun—for then he would be abandoning and abusing those who have suffered for their stand. Whenever we pretend that holiness is easy, we fail to prepare those who must take a stand in this world.
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2. God – The Trinity → The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are one, but at the same time they are distinct persons with their own boundaries. Each one has His own personality and responsibilities, as well as a connection and love for one another. See John 17:24.
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3. Truth → To be in touch with God's truth is to be in touch with reality, and to live in accord with that reality makes for a better life (Ps. 119:2, 45).
4. Geographical Distance → Sometimes you need to remove yourself physically from a situation (Prov. 22:3).
5. Time → Time apart may be necessary to improve a relationship.
6. Emotional Distance → Give your heart the space it needs to be safe.
7. Other People → You need to depend on others to help you set and keep boundaries.
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