

Boundaries in Relationships

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God is a God of Relationship

- Relational love exists in the Trinity. Eph. 3:14-15
- God made us for relationship with Him first, and with one another. I Jn. 4:10-11
- Heaven will be a place of loving relationships forever. I Thess. 4:17

God is a God of Boundaries

- God has personal boundaries. Although God is everywhere He is not everyone. Is. 45:22
- God has moral boundaries. He is omnipotent, but He will never do anything which is inconsistent with His moral character. I Pet. 1:16

Two Kinds of Boundaries

- A *moral boundary* is the line between right and wrong.
Fixed, unmovable
- A *personal boundary* is the line that marks out what is me, and what is mine to possess.
Strong, shaped, but pliable

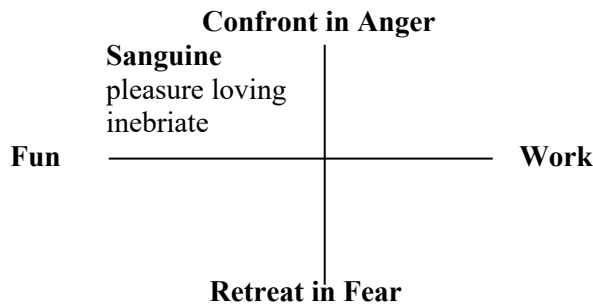
Boundary Formation

1. The 'S' Factor

- The Bible states that the first cause of boundary violation is a defective nature. Ps. 51:5; Is. 53:6
- A child does not need to be taught to do wrong. A child must be taught to do right.

2. The Influence of Personality

- Personality is the card you are dealt by the hand of God from the time of conception.
- Different personalities are liable to different boundary violations because they have different goals and mean of achieving those goals.

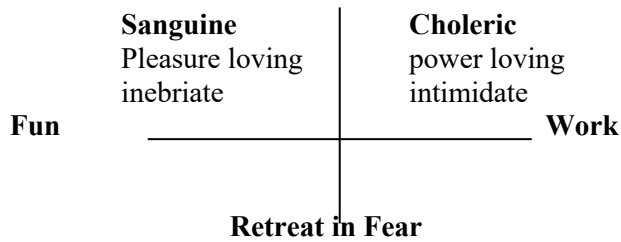


The Sanguine

- His treasure is pleasure.
- Likes to please himself and others.
- Finds it hard to say “no” because he wants to please.
- Is a risk taker, given to excess.
- Is capable of inebriating himself and others.

Needs to learn respect and self control.

Confront in Anger

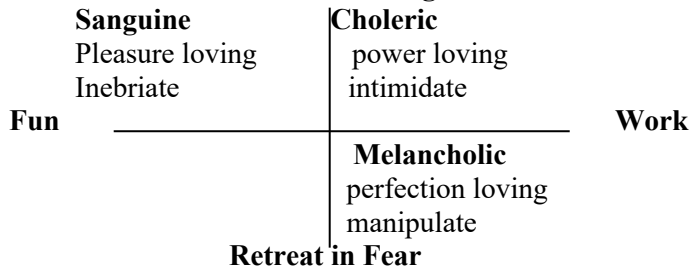


The Choleric

- Is strongly task oriented.
- Capable of running over people.
- Tend to use intimidation when angry.
- Pride leads to say “yes” too often.

Needs patience, gentleness and humility.

Confront in Anger

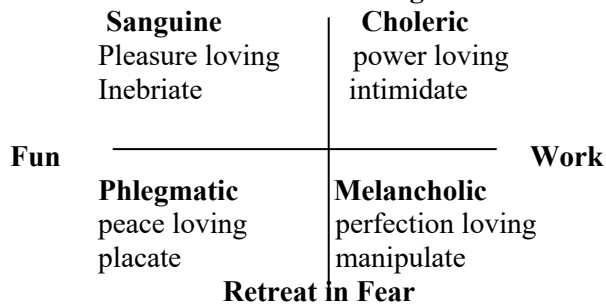


The Melancholic

- Is sensitive and introspective.
- More ruled by fear and avoidance of conflict with others.
- Tends to use manipulation to control others (guilt trips).
- Faults are usually sins of omission.

Needs faith to come out of themselves.

Confront in Anger



The Phlegmatic

- Is the peace lover.
- When faced with a conflict, seeks the quickest path to peace.
- Tempted to half heartedness as a means of self protection.
- Finds it difficult to commit to a decision.

Needs courage and wholeheartedness.

3. The Influence of Parenting

The role of parents is:

- to teach
- to enforce
- to model boundaries.

The Three stages of personal development

A. Bonding

- The experience of being one with another person. (mother)
- It is boundaryless.
- Without bonding, one develops walls not boundaries. “I am alone”
Mistrusts love.

B. Separateness

- “I am Me”
- I learn to think, feel, and make decisions for myself.
- I learn to accept personal responsibility.
- I learn to govern my own body.

C. Integration

- “I am me and you are you and we need to work together”.
- I learn to respect and love others.
- I practice balance in interaction with others.

4. The Influence of Abuse

- Abuse is a severe boundary violation.
- The severity is not the key factor in recovery but rather the comfort that comes after.
- Without care, they are like children who have never bonded.

5. The Influence of Society

- By the time of puberty, peer pressure is usually a greater factor than parental influence.
- If a child has not internalized a strong sense of moral boundaries and good personal boundaries, he may fall prey to the moral relativism of the majority.

Boundary Reformation

God's Ownership

- God is the owner of everything, even our lives. Ps.24:1
- We are the secondary owners. Job 1:21
- God has the right to define our boundaries

A Paradigm of Life

God's life is expressed in three qualities:

- Truth I Jn. 1:5
- Justice I Jn. 2:29
- Love I Jn. 4: 7-8

He teaches us to live by these three qualities.

When we do, we observe good boundaries.

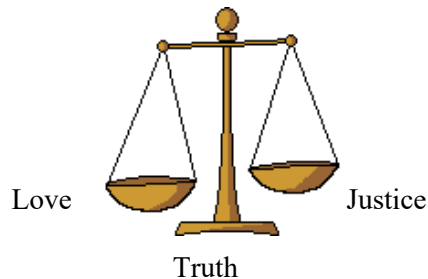
I Pet. 1:22

Truth Clarifies Boundaries

If there is no objective truth, then we are cast upon a sea of relativity.

There are no ultimate standards for morality.

There are no universal principles by which we measure personal boundaries.



Whose guilt is it anyway?

No man can by any means redeem his brother or give to God a ransom for him.

For the redemption of his soul is costly.

Ps 49:7-8

I feel like a child!

Buy the truth and do not sell it.

Prov. 23:23

A relative standard

Judge with right judgment for peace.

Zech. 8:16

Preferences become precepts.

There is one judge and lawgiver.

James 4:12

Truth spoken in love is vital to the establishment and maintenance of boundaries.

Eph 4:15

The double standard.

Take the log out of you own eye first.

Matt. 7:5

Who will carry what?

Bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ...
each man shall carry his own load.

Gal. 6:2-5

Grace Enables Us to Maintain Boundaries

- Grace is the ability to move in a balanced, timely, and beautiful way.
- Grace allows us to balance love and justice.
- The grace of justice is forgiveness.

Forgiveness is a legally binding transaction where I surrender the right to collect on a debt.

Matt. 6:12

True reconciliation

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another.

Eph 4:32

The Grace of Love

- The goal of Christian living is not the maintenance of boundaries for the purpose of self protection, but rather the practice of love.
I Tim. 1:5, I Pet. 1:22
- Love is a commitment to give a blessing.
I Pet. 3:9

Balanced Love

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy.

Micah 6:8

Tough Love

If he refuses to listen to the church let him be as a Gentile and as a tax collector.

Matt. 18:17

Sacrificial Love

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Matt. 5:39