

TUESDAY

Clear Boundaries

Guarding Your Heart in a World of Blurred Lines

- As Joshua /faithful leader = nears the end of his life
 - he speaks **not** of fortresses or swords
 - but of faithfulness / identity / spiritual boundaries
 - His charge to Israel isn't about military campaigns
 - It's /spiritual call = to remain separate / faithful /unwavering
- Joshua 23:6-7** Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses... lest you go among these nations... and make mention of the name of their gods.
- Recognized = Israel's greatest danger /wasn't **sword of Canaanites**
 - Greatest danger = **seduction of their values**
 - Same warning pulses thru **N.T.** = greatest threat to Christians today
 - is not always persecution = but **conformity**
 - subtle compromise w/ world's = mindset / morals
 - Joshua's counsel becomes deeply relevant for modern believers
 - Offers = practical call to live w/ **clear spiritual boundaries**

1. The Danger Is in the Drift

- Joshua's warning / crystal clear: **Josh. 23:12–13** If you cling to the remnant of these nations... know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you"
- Not issuing / threat = revealing **spiritual law of gravity**
 - You cannot cling = to both God / world
- Apostle James echoed this reality: **James 4:4** "Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"
- Not / call to isolation = call to **guard allegiance**
- Many believers don't fall thru open rebellion
 - but thru **slow compromise**

1 Kings 11:1–8 Solomon began w/ wisdom / worship = but

ended in idolatry due to unguarded relationships=loved foreign women

- Likewise = our hearts / vulnerable = to slow erosion
 - if boundaries are not set w/ prayerful conviction

2. Boundaries Protect Your Identity

- Joshua called Israel to be distinct—not because /better than other nations = because they were called / to reflect holiness of God
 - Their lives were to be living testimonies of God’s covenant
 - Same call = true today

2 Cor. 6:14, 17 “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers... Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord”

- Call to separation /nott about arrogance / isolationism
 - It's about **preservation**
- When Christians blur lines w/ worldly ideologies
 - in media/ entertainment / business / or romantic relationships
 - Their unique identity = begins to fade
- God desires =a people who stand out / not blend in

1 Peter 2:9. “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people...”

- That identity = is **worth protecting**

3. Watch What You Say—and Who You Listen To

- **Josh. 23:7** warned / not even to **mention** names of foreign gods
- Why? Our words shape our thinking = what we normalize in language / becomes easier to accept in practice
- In today’s culture = Christians often trivialize ungodly ideologies by joking about them / consuming them / or “liking” them online
- Devil / often subtle = slips in thru entertainment / politics / philosophy = anything to shift our focus / from truth to tolerance

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

- **The mind is = battleground = Fill it w/ God's Word**
 - **guard** it w/ discernment
 - **feed** it w/ things that draw you closer to Christ (Phil. 4:8)

4. Build Relationships—but W/ Discernment

- **John 17:15** Christians / called to live **among** unbelievers
 - But / not to be **shaped** by them
- Bible does not forbid interacting / world = but cautions against being **intimately bound** w/ those who do not share our faith
- Marriage = sacred example
- **2 Corinthians 6:14** = Paul warns believers not to be unequally yoked
- **1 Cor. 7:12–16** also encourages those already married to unbelievers to be a light in home = to win spouse to Lord
- Your closest bonds = romance/business/friendship
 - should be w/ those = who push you closer to Jesus / not away
- Guiding principle = **will relationship strengthen your walk w/ Christ**
 - **or slowly sabotage it?**

5. Jesus Set the Example: In the World, Not of It

- Jesus ate w/ sinners = healed outcast = walked in marketplaces
 - But never compromised His values / or blurred His mission
- **John 17:15** “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one”
- This = tension we live in = as followers of Christ
- Called to be **lights in /dark world**
 - but lights cannot shine if = dimmed by compromise

6. So, How Do We Set Clear Boundaries?

- **Anchor in the Word:** Regular Bible study renews your mind
 - sets spiritual reference points

Ps. 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”

- **Cultivate Prayerful Discernment:** Ask God for clarity about what influences to allow or avoid
James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God...”
- **Assess Your Relationships:** Surround yourself w/those who encourage you spiritually = **Prov. 13:20**
- **Embrace Your Identity:** You are God’s chosen vessel for this time
Ephesians. 5:8 “Walk as children of light”

CLOSING Thought

- Joshua’s last words echo across centuries:
 - **Joshua 23:8 “Cling to the Lord your God”**
- Don’t cling to comfort = don’t cling to culture = **cling to Christ**
- In world/ that blurs every boundary
 - Your faithfulness = will speak louder than ever
- **Set clear boundaries = let your life be a testimony of**
 - **undivided allegiance to the One who gave everything for you**