



THE PARENTING SERIES

Boundaries

#NPParenting

Week 2

2 of 5

May 15, 2016

Bottom Line: Every child has two primary needs: love and limits.

Icebreaker: What boundaries did your parents set for you when you were young?

Key Verse: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" – which is the first commandment with a promise – "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*
Ephesians 6:1-4

Paul does something interesting in Ephesians 6. After speaking about the marriage relationship, he moved on to the relationship between children and parents. Here we see two commands: one for kids and one for parents. Children are to honor their parents. This was the first commandment with a promise, meaning there was a conditional blessing that accompanied obedience to one's parents. Honor comes when we obey our parents, and obedience happens when we accept their limits. For this to take place, though, there have to be limits.

Many parents get frustrated because they feel like their children do not honor them, but maybe those same parents could do a better job setting limits. Notice that Paul directed fathers not to exasperate their children, which is just another way of saying "don't make them angry." Setting limits for children should begin not as "do this because I say so" but, "do this because it's good for you." Part of setting limits and avoiding anger is explaining to your children why those limits exist. To be fair, this won't stop all anger and ensure honor, but it can't hurt. Part of loving well is limiting well.

The reason we don't just throw the hammer down with our rules is because we want our kids to know that they are unconditionally loved. If they break our rules, it does not mean that we do not love them. Rules are a form of love because rules involve children in the process and teach them to make wise decisions for themselves. Love and limits are never at odds with one another; they are both necessary teachers in our home.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said that every person has two primary needs: Love & Limits.

What type of relationship did you have with your parents? Was it an Ephesians 6 type situation?

What would you like to model, and what would you discard from your own upbringing?

Why are boundaries an important part of building up children in the training and instruction of the Lord?

How has your relationship with your own parents changed over the years?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

Why are boundaries necessary in all relationships with children and young adults? How do these boundaries take shape if we aren't parents?

Which are you better at showing your children, love or limits? Which do you need to improve on showing your kids?

If limits are a problem, when are you going to set up a time to talk rules in your home? Why are rules good for kids? What tone should we use as we try to communicate the rules of our homes?

How do our boundaries change as our children grow older? How are you preparing your children to enter the world some day in the future?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Pray that our homes would have love and limits. Thank God for giving you the blessing of children to love. Ask that you would be able to love them unconditionally in a way that points back to the Lord. As you close, pray that the Lord would help you set proper limits for your children.
2. Talk together about the areas where you think we need to set limits for children. Which of these limits should be uniform? Which ones should be specific to the particular kid? If there are multiple parents in the group, how can we learn from one another as we seek to love and set limits?

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Jesus Christ.

Bottom Line: Every child has two primary needs: love and limits.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Psalm 127:3-5

Day 2: Proverbs 22:15

Day 3: 1 Kings 1:6

Day 4: Luke 15:11-32

Day 5: Exodus 20:12

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)