

January 10, 2010 Relationships

Good Fences

KEEPING THE CRAZIES OUT, LETTING THE FRIENDLIES IN

A good fence lets the good in and keeps the bad out, keeping you emotionally healthy.

Examples of fences: skin words truth
 geographical distance emotional distance time
 other people consequences

THE GOOD SAMARITAN - LUKE 10

WHAT'S WITHIN MY FENCE?

_____ - Don't ignore them, but don't put them in charge.

_____ & _____

- Attitudes - your orientation toward something; the stance you take.
- Beliefs - anything you accept as true.

Proverbs chapter 13

_____ - have consequences

Gal 6:7You will always reap what you sow.

Problems come when someone _____ the law of sowing and reaping.

_____ - taking responsibility leads to self-control.

Other people may influence, but you make the choice.

_____ - what we love and assign importance to.

_____ - Two aspects to consider:

1. Setting limits on _____

2. Setting our own _____ limits

Matt 25:23 The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

Matt 26-28 'You wicked and lazy servant! You think I'm a hard man, do you, harvesting crops I didn't plant and gathering crops I didn't cultivate? Well, you should at least have put my money into the bank so I could have some interest. Take the money from this servant and give it to the one with the ten bags of gold.'

We have a God-ordained _____ for ownership and use of our talents.

Greatest obstacle: _____

_____ - we are created in His image, but we have responsibility.

2 Cor 10:5we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Establishing healthy property lines in our thinking involves three things:

1. We must _____ our own thoughts.
2. We must _____ in knowledge.
3. We must _____ distorted thinking.

1 Cor 2:11-12 (Msg) Who ever knows what you're thinking and planning except you yourself? The same with God - except that he not only knows what he's thinking, but he lets us in on it.

_____ - seek real desires with pure motives

James 4:2-3 You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong – you want only what will give you pleasure.

_____ - our ability to give and respond to love is our greatest gift.

How we give:

Matt 22:37-39 You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself.

How we receive:

2 Cor 6:11-13 Oh, dear Corinthian friends! We have spoken honestly with you. Our hearts are open to you. If there is a problem between us, it is not because of a lack of love on our part, but because you have withheld your love from us. I am talking now as I would to my own children. Open your hearts to us!