

Responsibility in Boundaries

Introduction

- Everyone has boundaries
 - There are certain things you would not be okay with someone doing to you (e.g. hitting you) or saying to you
 - There are certain things you are not willing to do with someone
 - These are boundaries
- We have to know how to:
 - Set Boundaries
 - Maintain Boundaries
 - Enforce Boundaries

Activity: Circle of Trust

- Describe the concept of concentric circles
- Fill out the Circles of Trust
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/jwdbb1a1529o08o/Circles%20of%20Trust.pdf?dl=0>
- We have to be able to differentiate between these groups and where every single person fits
- Then we have to know which Boundaries to set
- This decision is influenced by:
 - The Scripture (e.g. the Books of Wisdom, Proverbs, and Sirach)
 - Our Orthodox Faith
 - Lived experience
 - Guidance from parents, servants, priest
- Within each of these circles of trust, there are even subcategories and different boundaries with different people
 - I cannot have the same boundaries with my male friends as with my female friends
 - I cannot have the same boundaries with my brother as with my sister

Boundaries with Friends

- There is a difference between how I act, talk, etc. with my male friends than with my female friends
- Boundaries in Touch
 - It is okay to play rough with your male friends
 - It is **not** okay to play rough with a female friend
 - It is okay to greet your male friend when you see him with a "pound hug" (dap + embrace)

- A playful touch with a male friend is okay... with a female friend is not okay
- It is not okay to greet your female friend with a hug
- Your anatomy is different from her anatomy
- There are parts of your body that are only available to the center circle - to yourself
- The same goes for your friends' bodies

- Boundaries in Speech and Messaging
 - It is not okay to talk about puberty or sex with a female friend
 - It is not okay to comment on a girl's looks or her body - positively or negatively
 - It is not okay to comment on a girl's clothing or makeup - positively or negatively
 - It is not okay to use sexual language or discuss sexual acts with anyone - male or female
 - It's not okay to "ship" people

- Boundaries in Time
 - It is not okay to be one-on-one with a girl at any time
 - It is okay to go out with a group of your male and female friends (with parental approval)
 - It's not okay to text a girl one-on-one for long periods of time, or after certain times of day (e.g. 9pm)
 - It's not okay to have group chats without a specific purpose that contain both males and females

Setting, Maintaining, Enforcing Boundaries

- Boundaries define us. They define what is me and what is not me. A boundary shows me where I end and someone else begins, leading me to a sense of ownership. Boundaries help us keep the good in and the bad out. Setting boundaries inevitably involves taking responsibility for your choices.

- Remove yourself from situations that cross the line

- Address Conflicts head-on with kindness
 - If someone tries to get you to cross a boundary, address it
 - Just say no
- Reporting to an adult

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