

Boundary Basics

Sowing and Reaping—How things really are

Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life. Galatians 6:7–8, *The Message*

Responsible “To”

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then? Galatians 5:13–15, *The Message*

Let angry people endure the backlash of their own anger; if you try to make it better, you'll only make it worse. Proverbs 19:19, *The Message*

Powerless

It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. Romans 7:21–23, *The Message*

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:6-8 NIV

Responsible “For”

Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out. Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. James 5:13–17, *The Message*

1. We are responsible **for** acknowledging the truth about our problems. (Confession)
2. We are responsible **for** submitting our burden to God. (Humility)
3. We are responsible **for** asking God and others to help us recognize and take ownership of what is our part. (Prayer)
4. We are responsible **for** turning from evil and toward God. (Repentance)
 - a. We are responsible for making a treatment plan to deal with our hurts, habits, and hang-ups.
 - b. We are responsible for implementing the plan.
 - c. We are responsible for making amends.