



DANIEL in the BOUNDARIES DEN

Learning to be Responsible & Take Ownership of Your Life

Are you in control of your life? Do people take advantage of you? Do you have trouble saying no? Christian men are often taught to be so loving and giving that they forget their own limits and limitations? Jesus taught that we need to know when to say YES and how to say NO. This study will guide you in how sound boundaries give you the freedom to walk as the loving, responsible, mature man God created and intended you to be. God gives us a model of such a mature man in Scripture through Daniel. While still a young man, Daniel travelled to Babylon with a group of young Israelite nobles, men of promise whom the conquering power felt could be of use in service. Daniel shows us how to set boundaries to faithfully walk with God in the middle of a secular world.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

www.MensTable.com

Symptoms of Inability to Create Boundaries

A Man knows how to recognize symptoms of inability to create boundaries

October 17, 2019

Bible Verses: Daniel 3:1-30

Videos: Ordinary People - Conrad's Breakdown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b02H0dW2xf8>

Ordinary People - Conrad's Breakthrough

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZS7zpXftHA>

Music: Carrie Underwood - Jesus, Take The Wheel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lydBPm2KRau>

Resources: *BOUNDARIES – When to Say Yes – How to say No to Take Control of Your Life* by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend
Standing Your Ground – Messages on Daniel – A Call to Courage in an Age of Compromise by Bryan Chapell.

Daniel – The Model of Boundaries

The book of Daniel is the story of some of God's people who are taken to live in Babylon.

One of the main themes of the book is how people can live for God in a "pagan" land.

1. _____ → Most of us probably know the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace. Usually we emphasize the Lord's miraculous rescue of His three servants as it is described in the passage and rightly so. Who could not be amazed at the wonderful working of God whereby He preserved these men when no one else could get close to the fire without being consumed? (Dan. 3:22–25). Yet what we might miss if we are not careful is that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were willing to go to the fire even if God were not to preserve their lives (vv. 16–18).
2. _____ → Daniel's faithful friends refused to worship idols, but their refusal was not based on their possessing sure knowledge that they would not be burned alive. Their view of God was big enough for them to acknowledge that they did not owe the Lord service because of what He could do for them but because He alone is God (3:16–18). They were unwilling to yield even if the Lord were to allow them to die, for they did not count their own lives worth keeping if preserving themselves meant that they would dishonor the Lord.

Boundaries – Symptoms of Inability to Create Boundaries

If we don't realize what we own and what we don't, we will experience some of several symptoms.

1. **Difficulties with Being Alone** > We always have to be with someone in order to survive. There is a lack of bonding; there is no internal structure to hold the bonding inside.
2. **Masochism** > This is an inability to set limits on others' abusive behavior. This creates a vicious cycle because the pain causes more need, which makes it harder to set limits on others.
3. **Victim Mentality** > We consider ourselves victims of circumstances and other people, never taking responsibility for ourselves. Any sort of responsibility is denied, especially in the area of choices.
4. **Blaming Others** > Responsibility for pain and change is always directed toward someone else.
5. **Over responsibility and Guilt** > We feel guilty for not being what others want us to be.
6. **Under responsibility** > We are overly responsibility for others, but do not deal with our own pain.
7. **Inability to Say "NO"** > The Most basic of boundary function. An inability to say "NO" leaves us open to all sorts of control, intrusion, and abuse.
8. **Depression** > The lack of boundaries often sets us up for being mistreated, and a lot of pain follows. Some depression is a result of anger turned inward. We can become resentful, even bitter.
9. **Panic** > We may feel panic because we seem to have no control over what happens to us or what we end up doing. It is scary to have others in control of our life and choices.
10. **Resentment** > We need to do what we do out of a purpose of the heart (II Cor. 9:7). Too often, we comply with others' wishes and do what we really do not purpose to do. We live like a martyr.
11. **Passive-Aggressive Behavior** > We tend to set our limits passively, rather than assertively (James 5:12). We express the aggression of saying no in a passive way.
12. **Codependency** = We do not comprehend who is responsible for what. We enable evil.
13. **Identity Confusion** > We are unable to tell what is me and what is you. We are unable to know who we are apart from others.

Action – Journal This!

1. What are you willing to do today that would honor God and bring growth to your life?
2. What are you unwilling to do today that would dishonor God and bring shame to your life?
3. Where do you need to set a boundary with a person, thing or circumstance this week?

Bible Verses – The Message

Daniel 3:1-30 - 1 King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue, ninety feet high and nine feet thick. He set it up on the Dura plain in the province of Babylon. 2 He then ordered all the important leaders in the province, everybody who was anybody, to the dedication ceremony of the statue. 3 They all came for the dedication, all the important people, and took their places before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had erected. 4 A herald then proclaimed in a loud voice: "Attention, everyone! Every race, color, and creed, listen! 5 When you hear the band strike up - all the trumpets and trombones, the tubas and baritones, the drums and cymbals - fall to your knees and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. 6 Anyone who does not kneel and worship shall be thrown immediately into a roaring furnace." 7 The band started to play, a huge band equipped with all the musical instruments of Babylon, and everyone - every race, color, and creed - fell to their knees and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 8 Just then, some Babylonian fortunetellers stepped up and accused the Jews. 9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king! 10 You gave strict orders, O king, that when the big band started playing, everyone had to fall to their knees and worship the gold statue, 11 and whoever did not go to their knees and worship it had to be pitched into a roaring furnace. 12 Well, there are some Jews here - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego - whom you have placed in high positions in the province of Babylon. These men are ignoring you, O king. They don't respect your gods and they won't worship the gold statue you set up." 13 Furious, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought in. When the men were brought in, 14 Nebuchadnezzar asked, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you don't respect my gods and refuse to worship the gold statue that I have set up? 15 I'm giving you a second chance - but from now on, when the big band strikes up you must go to your knees and worship the statue I have made. If you don't worship it, you will be pitched into a roaring furnace, no questions asked. Who is the god who can rescue you from my power?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "Your threat means nothing to us. 17 If you throw us

in the fire, the God we serve can rescue us from your roaring furnace and anything else you might cook up, O king. 18 But even if he doesn't, it wouldn't make a bit of difference, O king. We still wouldn't serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up." 19 Nebuchadnezzar, his face purple with anger, cut off Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace fired up seven times hotter than usual. 20 He ordered some strong men from the army to tie them up, hands and feet, and throw them into the roaring furnace. 21 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, bound hand and foot, fully dressed from head to toe, were pitched into the roaring fire. 22 Because the king was in such a hurry and the furnace was so hot, flames from the furnace killed the men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to it, 23 while the fire raged around Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 24 Suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm and said, "Didn't we throw three men, bound hand and foot, into the fire?" "That's right, O king," they said. 25 "But look!" he said. "I see four men, walking around freely in the fire, completely unharmed! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!" 26 Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the roaring furnace and called in, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the High God, come out here!" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the fire. 27 All the important people, the government leaders and king's counselors, gathered around to examine them and discovered that the fire hadn't so much as touched the three men - not a hair singed, not a scorch mark on their clothes, not even the smell of fire on them! 28 Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and rescued his servants who trusted in him! They ignored the king's orders and laid their bodies on the line rather than serve or worship any god but their own. 29 "Therefore I issue this decree: Anyone anywhere, of any race, color, or creed, who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be ripped to pieces, limb from limb, and their houses torn down. There has never been a god who can pull off a rescue like this." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL - Carrie Underwood

She was driving last Friday on her way to Cincinnati
On a snow white Christmas Eve
Going home to see her Mama and her Daddy with the baby in the
backseat
Fifty miles to go and she was running low on faith and gasoline
It'd been a long hard year
She had a lot on her mind and she didn't pay attention
She was going way too fast
Before she knew it she was spinning on a thin black sheet of glass
She saw both their lives flash before her eyes
She didn't even have time to cry
She was so scared
She threw her hands up in the air
Jesus take the wheel
Take it from my hands
Cause I can't do this on my own
I'm letting go
So give me one more chance
Save me from this road I'm on
Jesus take the wheel
It was still getting colder when she made it to the shoulder

And the car came to a stop
She cried when she saw that baby in the backseat sleeping like a rock
And for the first time in a long time
She bowed her head to pray
She said I'm sorry for the way
I've been living my life
I know I've got to change
So from now on tonight
Jesus take the wheel
Take it from my hands
Cause I can't do this on my own
I'm letting go
So give me one more chance
Save me from this road I'm on
Oh, Jesus take the wheel
Oh, I'm letting go
So give me one more chance
Save me from this road I'm on
From this road I'm on
Jesus take the wheel
Oh, take it, take it from me
Oh, wow, ohhhhh

Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.

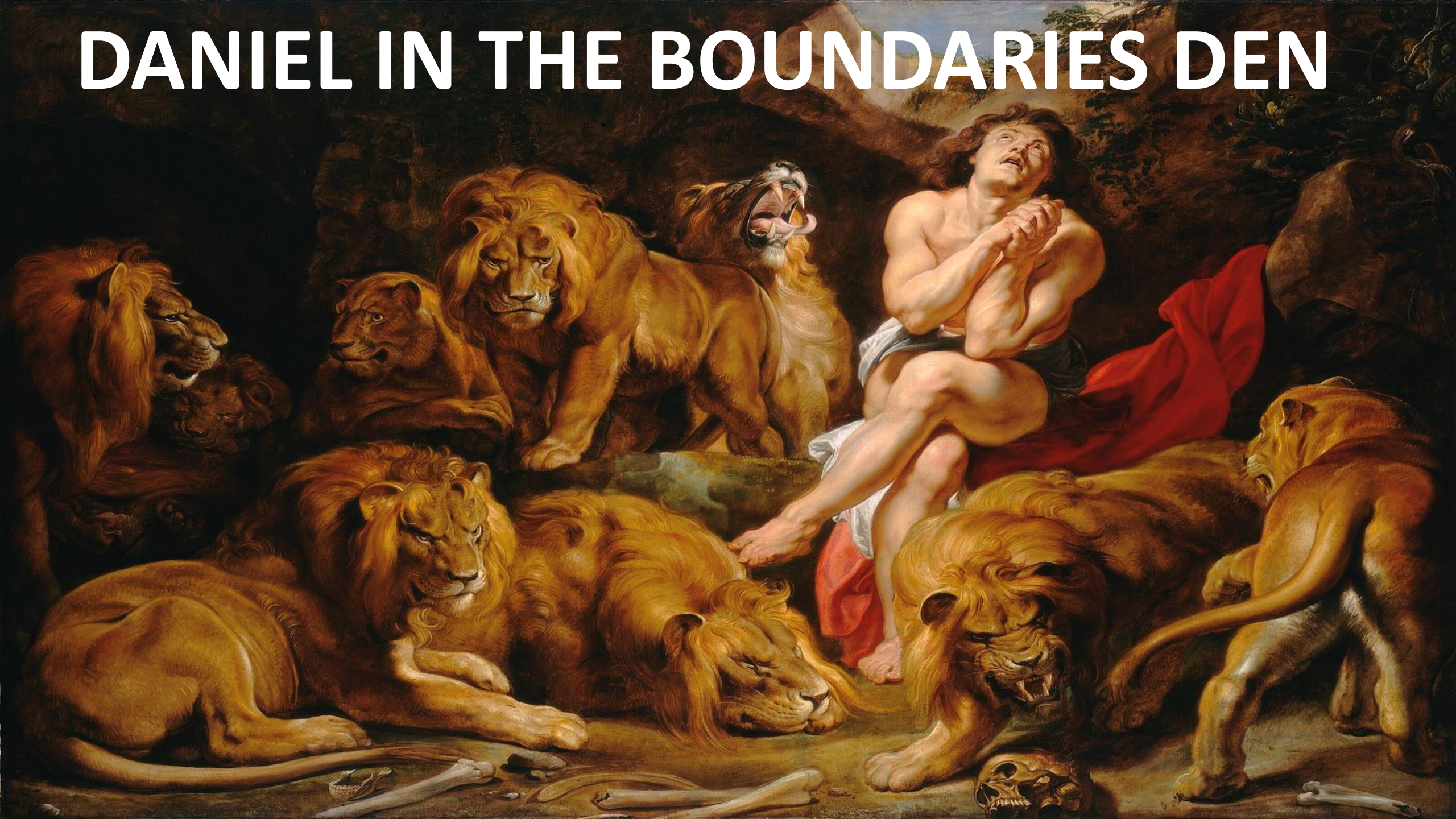
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