

THE BOUNDARIES OF GOD, #1

INTRODUCTION

God has set boundaries for His people and expects them to stay within those boundaries. Cf Acts 17:30; Josh. 2:18-19. The boundaries are **set** by God, as He, in His wisdom, has determined how far we can go and keep His approval; just as the manufacturer of an automobile knows best how to care for a new car, and specifies such in the operating manual. Using the **Bible**, we can determine the boundaries of our conduct in the world today. Now, let's consider some of the boundaries God has set.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, there is the BOUNDARY OF SIN.

- A. Sin can be likened to the boundary line between 2 fields: One marked "righteousness" and the other marked "evil."
1. When we step from righteousness into evil, we cross the boundary line and commit sin in so doing. Cf 1 John 3:4; 2 John 9
 2. We cannot walk in both fields at the same time without crossing God's boundaries. 2 Cor. 6:14; Eccl. 10:8
 - a. One cannot pray and curse and still please God. Jas. 1:26; 3:9-10
 - b. One cannot hate people and love God at the same time. 1 John 4:20-21
 - c. One cannot love the sinful things of the world and love God also. 1 John 2:15-17
 - d. One cannot worship God and fail to glorify Him outside of worship, and still please Him. Matt. 5:16, 23-24
 - e. Neither can one live good morally while ceasing to be a worshiper of God.
- B. Sin will separate one from God, no matter how many **good qualities** one may have, just as a ball player is in violation when only one foot crosses the boundary line, even though the rest of his body is still on the playing field. Isa. 59:1-2; Jas. 2:10

II. 2nd, there is the BOUNDARY OF SALVATION.

- A. The important subject of salvation is subject to God's boundary as well, as revealed through His everlasting word. Matt. 24:35; John 12:48
1. God doesn't **save one person one way**, and another person in another. Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 1:16
 2. Neither does God **save one by doing only part** of that which He requires in His word.
 - a. We are saved by **grace**, but not by grace only;. Eph. 2:8-9
 - b. We are saved by **blood**, but not by blood only. Matt. 26:28
 - c. We are saved by **love**, but not by love only. John 3:16
 - d. We are saved by **faith**, but not by faith only. Jas. 2:19, 24
 - e. We are saved by **repentance**, but not repentance only. Acts 17:30; 3:19
 - f. We are saved by **baptism**, but not by baptism only. 1 Pet. 3:21; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38..
- B. So, one must comply with **all** of God's requirements in order to enjoy salvation. Luke 6:46; Heb. 5:8-9

CONCLUSION

- I. God's boundaries regarding SIN and SALVATION are stationary, as regulated by His word.
 - A. It is not a matter of what **we think** is sinful or not sinful, but what **is** sinful is what God in His word reveals to us.
 - B. Neither is it a matter of what **we think** brings salvation, but what God's word reveals to us.
 1. God declares what is sinful, and it is His will that the sinner must confess faith in Jesus as His son, repent of sins, and baptized in order to be saved.
 2. Sin committed after conversion is just as deadly as sins committed before conversion.
- II. If you need to come to God in obedience, we bid you do so now, as we stand together and sing the song of encouragement.