

## Leadership Community: 10.14.18

### III. Boundaries:

**\*Training time I'm going to talk about having appropriate boundaries in our lives...might also have some application to work, family life as well.**

\*If you are thinking "why would anyone struggle with this, then it's because you probably don't...but many, probably most do struggle at some level."

-It might change for you in the future depending on the circumstances.

### **Couple of books that are helpful:**

-Boundaries: Cloud and Townsend

-A Failure of Nerve: Edwin Friedman (longer book and he is not a believer...but very helpful)

### **Diagnostic Questions: Not to inflict guilt but to get us thinking.**

**1. How much does your need to be needed impact your emotions (feelings)? Actions?**

**2. To what degree do you believe you can fix people?**

-Lady who recently committed suicide

-Obviously we believe we can **help** people...or why lead? But how much do you think your choices can actually change people?

-**Good gauge of this:** How often do you find yourself "out working" the people you are trying to help. (or even "out worrying")

**3. How much do you tend to live by other's expectations (of what you should do) versus your own settled convictions? (emotionally or in actions)**

**For instance...I have felt the pull of people complaining about the ministry...emotionally and have on occasion changed directions based on complaints.**

-Complaint may be valid...even if given in an unhelpful way...but it may not be.

So my question is do you live more by your vision or the demands, expectations or complaints of others?

-People's complaints and demands are not a good life strategy to live by.

#### **4. How much do you need for people to like you and think you are a good/spiritual person and how does that impact you emotional/volitionally?**

\*My Daughter Casey has become something of an Enneagram aficionado(along with a few million others it seems)...if you don't know what that it...don't worry about it.

If you do...she's a 1, I'm (so I'm told)...an 8.

But whether it is Flag Page, Meyer Briggs...or any of the personality inventories...they all demonstrate that we have certain tendencies based on how God has wired us and what we have experienced.

**\*All struggle to a degree with people pleasing but not all to the same level.**

\*Some of it is personality...much is growth in Christian maturity.

Some will always (I think) struggle more in feeling badly if others are unhappy with them...but all can grow in living apart from the opinions of others.

**Gal. 1:10...Am I now trying to win the approval of men or of Christ?**

#### **5. Are you more likely to rejoice or become jealous or insecure if others under or around you provide help that you can't or don't?**

##### **Parable of Disaster:**

Moral of the story: Strategic Leadership/Biblical leadership is both loving and wise.

\*Compassionate & Strategic

##### **Compassionate and Strategic Leadership:**

##### **I am not advocating trading one imbalance for another:**

-One is no boundaries or not enough "differentiation" (differentiation)

-The others is to go past center into self-protection and self-preservation.

The balance is sacrifice and service as a component of faithfulness.

##### **A Key Ministry Goal**

**As servant leaders we want to do what we can to ensure that everyone that wants help gets it.**

A. All who **want** help get it.

-Some may say they want help but based on their actions they don't actually want help

B. I want to provide the help they **need** not necessarily what they want or believe they need.

-Chaplain: I provide direct spiritual care to some, and ensure that all get what they need.

-I am not responsible to care for everyone...I am responsible to ensure all are cared for.

C. If I believe I must provide direct care for all...it is likely I will be unable to ensure all are cared for.

D. This servant-leader lifestyle requires sacrifice and strategy: It is long-term, sustainable plan for investing our lives.

### **Strategic Choices related to that ministry goal:**

#### **1. You must stay healthy personally: Set limits and boundaries around your time and life.**

\*There are times when life is going to be imbalanced (transitions, troubles...yours and others)...but even then as much as possible there needs to be a search for balance

\*Eating well during stress, a little exercise, practicing the presence of God, time with friends

\*Disasters: People lovingly bring lots of food...frequently it is foods that increase physical stress (comfort foods are likely to be foods that increase stress)

-Chaplain who didn't want to slow down and pace himself...he became a casualty himself (I had to provide care to him and he could not provide it to others)

**If the leader goes down those they are leading may suffer:** Self-care is good leadership

\*Selfishness is bad leadership...but self-care is not.

#### **2. Learn to say "no" with courage, wisdom, and love.**

\*Then leave it with God...don't go back and keep picking that scab.

**\*Me after a sermon: you after a group or after a "no!"** that made someone unhappy.

\*"No" can be hard. It can bring anger, people leaving your group, talking about you.

\*But a strategic "no" is essential to by vision..."yes" is your life strategy ("no" are things that potentially undermine it or divert from it)

"Yes" to what God has called you to will require some strategic "no's"

**3. As a group leader a key part of strategic leadership is to Invest in a person or a couple of key people at a time: Make them your priority.**

So...the squeaky wheel may get the grease but they must not get your best invests.

-It is behind our (LIT) LA model.

-It is a proven model for reproducing Great Commission Leaders

2 Tim 2:2...invest in ways to reproduce investors.

**\*\*\*I grew up with model of "Faithful, available, teachable"**

**\*Question is:** Who does God want you to invest in?

There are people waiting to take off...who do not currently appear "FAT"...they are waiting for an invitation and some investment.

\*I have come to see this as more art than science...look for where God is moving and join him.

The challenge is that: meetings, and member care can take up most of our energy and time...leaving less time for leadership development and mission.

\*This will always be a difficult tension to hold for most leaders...don't feel guilty just try to stay aware of it.

**4. Respond to crisis strategically.**

-Do I have to act now?

- Should I act now?
- Should I act at all?
- Should I act like they are asking or in a totally different way?

Complaint is not a good strategy and neither is guilt...what has God called you to? What does faithfulness look like here?

**\*Friend who had developed a good strategy for dealing with very needy (EGR) family members...he is by nature and nurture prone to co-dependency...movement/moment**

\*Head of the AF: Is someone going to lose life, limb, or eyesight? Then slow down.

\*Willard says we must "Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from our lives."

There is wisdom in that in so many ways...but it applies to responding to the emergencies of others.

I have personally don't more harm by acting with hurry than by being slow and methodically when the circumstances allowed for it.

## **5. Lead like you are on a long walk**

a. If I give a lot of time to someone, then suddenly can't sustain it...they can feel defrauded.

\*unless you clearly and consistently communicate...this is for this long.

\*Treating your leadership like a long walk...is harder for some than others.

\*It doesn't mean boring or without urgency or passion...it is **passion with pace**

b. I will not lead well for very long if I do not pace myself.

\*You may be called to live a life that will require a kind of "burn out" sacrifice...but historically, and I think biblically...that is a more rare than common calling.

\*More people are called to "wear out" than "burn out"

c. You get to decide how you will lead.

Be Well-differentiated leader: internal locus of control (God not a people pleaser)

**"I think I understand what you want from me, but here is what I believe I can and should give."**

**Often I have seen people respond to this as if I am trying to control them:** I have found it useful to say to them "I am not controlling your choices, I am controlling mine...I am responsible to God for my choices, you are responsible to him for yours."

**6. Ministry burn out is optional...you are there to help, not to be their hope.**

\*In a 1956 John Wayne movie called the Searchers (American Film Institute named it the all time best Western).

In the film Wayne and others are searching for family members who have been kidnapped by Comanches.

As they embark on what will eventually be a 5 year search...hence the name of the film...the younger passionate member of the group takes off full speed.

Meanwhile John rested and watered his horse...later John rides up on the young man who is now walking in the desert...he has killed his horse.

**I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.**

**1 Cor. 2:3-5**

**PRAYER TIME:**