

DRAWING THE HARD LINE

Part 2: What will be your Relational NO'S that will actually mean NO!

BIBLICAL REMINDER: Philippians 2:3-4 – “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

CURRIE'S VERSION APPLIED: Don't do anything relationally to selfishly get what you want letting ambition or addiction drive you. Don't be arrogant or above others thinking that you can write your own ticket and nobody can tell you what to do. Rather, humbly and graciously put other people first – putting them before yourself – never hurting anyone. Stop being driven by what YOU want – what pleases you – but instead, live with the best of others in mind – really loving them.”

INSTRUCTIONS: Go through the following statements discussing them to determine as a couple if you will adopt that particular *Relational Boundary* as one you will mutually follow. Remember: if it is right for one partner – it is right for both. Limits are for the marriage and commonly applied, not to “clip the wings” of only one. Mark off each point as you decide on your **RB's**.

- 1. **NO RELATIONAL CONNECTION vs I WANT TO BE EXCLUSIVE TO MY SPOUSE.**
“RELATIONAL” means any potential path or interaction upon which one is seeking to gain attention of another person other than your mate. Thus, there can be no flirting, no innuendoes, no affection, no complimenting, no suggestive hugs, no sexual jokes, no teasing, no touches, or any other interactive relational contacting designed to create connection or express interest with an opposite sex person (**OSP**).
- 2. **NO “RISKY” SITUATIONS vs I WANT NO APPEARANCE OF COMPROMISE.**
You can never be intentionally alone with an **OSP** ... period. Notify each other immediately if and when anything of this nature happens incidentally. Also, volunteer any occurrence along these lines or when it seems wise to notify your spouse to be safe. Call to share with your spouse, leave a message or text regarding the situation where you have to be alone with an **OSP** for any length of time for any reason.
- 3. **NO PRIVATE MESSAGING vs I WILL BE TRANSPARENT DIGITALLY.**
No texting any **OSP** connecting privately through any social or messaging app or any other means of digital communication. Your spouse should also be told immediately if an **OSP** reaches out to connect with you in any way.
- 4. **NO SECRET RELATIONSHIPS vs I WILL SHARE ALL MY INTERACTIONS.**
Opposite sex friends (**OSP**) are OUR friends – friends of the marriage – or not friends at all. Add your spouse to any online conversations with an **OSP**. Always introduce your spouse to those you meet and are interacting with in public. You cannot have exclusive or ongoing relationships with any **OSP** once you are married. There is no such thing as “just friends”, or

“old friends” or a “work relationship.” Maintain openness. No secret or private friendships. Not one.

- 5. **NO PRIVATE MEETINGS vs I WILL VOLUNTEER MY WHEREABOUTS, MY ACTIVITIES AND MY COMPANY.** These types of meetings include but are not limited to the following: no breakfasts, lunches or dinners, no coffees, no closed-door meetings, no after work visits, no walks or workouts together or no secret rendezvous of any kind with any **OSP**. No private visits of any kind.
- 6. **NO PERSONAL SHARING vs I WILL OBSERVE APPROPRIATE SELF-DISCLOSURE.** Talking to an **OSP** about life struggles creates connection. Caution. Private conversations that you wouldn't have if your spouse was standing there are clearly inappropriate. Talking to an **OSP** about problems in your marriage is inviting them into your most personal space. No heart sharing or burden bearing. Misery loves company and shared misery creates closeness.
- 7. **NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS vs I WILL LIVE OPENLY ACCOUNTABLE TO MY MATE.** There should not be any secretive financial accounts, email addresses or social media messaging links that are not in the full awareness of one's spouse. No secrets with money or people. Is it clear yet? Once married, your life is not your own. Two have become one! You belong to your mate and they you. Keep no secrets from your spouse.
- 8. **NO DELETING EVIDENCE vs I WILL REVEAL ALL ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT ME.** It is a violation of trust to delete anything off your phone, your computer or any other device so as to hide something relationally inappropriate. Show your spouse if any **OSP** reaches out in a way that breaks this agreement. Delete the message or text only with your spouse watching. Make no response to the relational gestures of **OSP**.
- 9. **NO SECRET PASSWORDS vs I WILL GIVE ACCESS ON ALL ACCOUNTS.** Stop living in secret. Share all passwords for all accounts of any kind. Nothing is off-limits to your spouse. Grant them full access, genuinely and freely. Provide your list electronically and surrender your phone whenever asked without comment or resistance.
- 10. **NO FLIRTING vs ALL FUN AND SEDUCTIVE BANTER IS SPOUSAL-CENTRIC.** Stop seeking attention from the opposite sex. Don't toy with opposite **OSP** like you are free and available. Don't interact like you are interested. Be careful on dressing to be noticed by others. You know your intent. Work to stay neutral and not overly engaging to create interest or to fish for interest.
- 11. **NO PORNOGRAPHY vs I WILL LIVE WITH SEXUAL FAITHFULNESS.** If there has been any kind of past of sexual addiction, the goal is complete recovery so as to walk with intimate integrity. Have eyes only for one. Don't chase people in a sexually objectifying way whether in your mind, online or in person. Stop all lustful looking. No porn of any kind... end it.

- 12. NO LOVE ADDICTION vs I WILL PURSUE ONLY MY SPOUSE ROMANTICALLY.**
You must stop any need or habit to seek to be noticed and affirmed by any **OSP**. Infatuation must stop even in your mind. If you have a draw toward limerence (obsessed with another person) break the silence about your “crush”
- 13. NO INAPPROPRIATE AFFECTION vs I RESERVE RELATIONAL WARMTH FOR ONE.**
Operate with kindness but not overly touchy. Not inappropriate contact or lingering hugs. Be careful not to be misunderstood with your gestures of warmth. Consider side hugs instead of front hugs. There’s not usually any confusion with this kind of contact. Obviously, no hand holding, kisses or other **OSP** body touching.
- 14. NO VEHICLE PRIVACY vs I TRAVEL WITH OSP IN THREES NOT TWOS**
Live with wise limits. Do not drive alone in a car with an **OSP**. If there is an exception required, let your mate know at once.
- 15. NO FLY ZONE vs I WILL END ANY FLAMES WHETHER NEW OR OLD.**
Avoid relationally tempting people or settings. Make no contact with ex-girlfriends or boyfriends. Caution on reconnecting with old friends from high school or college days. Guy’s weekend or Girl’s weekend can be “chase” weekends, party weekends or “what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas” style weekends have to stop. Grow up and be faithful.
- 16. NO CLUBBING vs I WILL PARTY WITH MY SPOUSE NOT OTHERS.**
Come to a conclusion regarding what “going out” with friends looks like. Ask yourself why are you going out alone. Discuss what acceptable reasons are. You are not to be having your primary relational needs met by others.
- 17. NO SKETCHY FRIENDS vs I WILL CHOOSE MY FRIENDS WISELY.**
Limit your friendships to those people who value and respect others and faithfulness to your marriage. If they are given to excessive drinking, drugs or dirty talk, cut them out. If their values don’t honour the Lord, be cautious that they aren’t your primary friends. If they are uncommitted to their current primary relationship – don’t accept their compromise as it will erode your values too. Caution if they have no interest in God or faith. Remember: You become like the 5 closest friends you hang around with.
- 18. NO SEEDY PLACES vs ONLY ESTABLISHMENTS WITH A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE.**
Agree to check with each other as to the nature of the establishments you frequent. If the place is known for moral compromise and marital callousness. Is it a bar or a restaurant? It is a “pick-up” place or a safe place? Is it a questionable crowd or steady crowd.
- 19. NO TRASHING SPOUSE vs I WILL ENCOURAGE MY SPOUSE PUBLICLY.**
NOT THE BUTT END OF THE JOKES

- 20. **NO IMBALANCED PRIORITIES vs I WILL CARVE OUT REGULAR TIME FOR US.**
Create time in each other’s schedules for your “US” to thrive. Keep dating. Avoid all time-consuming distractions that take away time for you and your spouse to connect. Agree on social media boundaries. Digital-gaming boundaries will need to be discussed and agreed on. Work to have connection time with each other regularly in the evenings even if its only 15 minutes on busy days.

- 21. **NO STRANGER FRIENDS vs I WILL INTRODUCE MY FRIENDS TO MY MATE.**
All our regular friends should be known by each other whether they are online or in person. Talk about them. Share who they are. When possible, introduce your spouse to them.

- 22. **NO SKIPPING CHURCH vs I WILL MAKE IT MY MISSION TO ATTEND REGULARLY.**
Let your relationship with your spouse be strengthened by consistently going to church together.

DATE: _____

HUSBAND SIGNED: _____

WIFE SIGNED: _____

WITNESSED: _____

To be reviewed on _____