

Guardrails

Pastor Dan Herod

- **Me**

- **Example: Me rolling a car Thanksgiving weekend of freshman year in South Dakota.**
- *Had there been some guardrails on that road I probably wouldn't have rolled the car.*
- *Just like I needed some guardrails driving that day I also need guardrails to keep me on track spiritually.*
 - *I know myself well enough that unless I work at doing the right thing, that I will do the wrong thing.*

- **We**

- *If we are all being honest in this room today we would admit that we have allowed ourselves to go off road in some areas.*
- *Isn't it crazy how it feels like we are fighting ourselves when we are fighting temptation?*
 - *Sinning feels so natural. For a while.*
 - *Sinning feels so good. For a while.*
- *But many of us in this room have learned that sin carries with it a big price tag.*
- *What is sin?*
 - **Doing what God said not to do.**
 - **Not doing what God said to do.**
 - *Sin is living outside of the guardrails that God has set up.*
 - **It is also the biggest waste of your life imaginable!**
- **We need to fight to live within God's guardrails because it impacts us and everyone we influence for all eternity.**
- **Please stand in honor of the reading of God's word.**

- **God**

- **So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if**

you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. Galatians 5:16-18

- *The Spirit and our sinful desire two very different things.*
 - *Every morning we wake up we are confronted with this reality.*
- ***There are two natures within my chest, one is cursed and one is blessed. The one that will rule this host is the one that I feed the most.-Unknown***
- ***When we live by the spirit we live within the guardrails on the road of life.***
 - *God wants us to live within the guardrails.*
- ***But what about the small, fun sins?***
- ***When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:13-15***
- ***1.) Sin always starts small***
- *The source of struggle is not external, it is internal. We are fighting our old life everyday.*
- *It is absolutely vital that we pull sin out of our life as fast as we can.*
- ***Example: Bernie Madoff***
 - *Investors lost 18 billion dollars*
 - *He was sentenced to 150 years in prison.*
- ***The innocent looking sin will grow into a beast.***
- ***No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Corinthians 10:13***
- ***2.) God provides detours***
 - *God wants you to avoid sin more than you want to.*
 - *He knows your limits. Do you know your limits?*

- *He provides a way out so you can escape the crash.*
- *You've got to be looking for the escape route to find it.*
- *Sometimes it is the still small voice of the Holy Spirit speaking that is your way out.*
- *Your temptation is common.*
 - *Satan tries to make it seem like you are the only one.*
- ***We need to understand the nature of sin.***
- ***Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it. Genesis 4:6-7***
- ***3.) Sin Desires To Have You***
- ***Sin will always:***
 - ***Take you further than you wanted to go.***
 - ***Keep you longer than you wanted to stay.***
 - ***Take more than you wanted to give.***
- *Just like fire that consumes as much as it could, sin will consume every part of you.*
- *When we don't do the right thing we open up the door for sin to have a greater influence on our lives.*
- *The amazing thing about following Christ is that he has given us the upper hand in our fight against sin.*
 - *Believe it or not you can stop sinning!*
- *Our identity in Christ is one that is FREE from sin!*
- ***In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.***

Romans 6:11-14

- *At the root of every temptation is the attempt of satan to re-identify us.*
 - *In Christ you are more than a conqueror*
 - *You can do all things through Christ.*
 - *You are a new creation, the old has gone the new has come.*
- *I am so glad that God helps us with his Grace.*
- ***“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” Titus 2:11-12***
- ***4.) God’s grace teaches us to say no to sin.***
 - *It reminds us that we are better than that.*
 - *It reminds us about the price that has been paid for our freedom.*
 - *It gives us the strategies to live free lives.*

- **You**

You will build guardrails in your life when you:

- ***Kill Sin When It Starts & Take Godly Detours***
 - *Break up with that boyfriend/girlfriend that you know is wrong.*
 - *Log off the internet when you feel pulled.*
 - *End the friendship before it leads to further compromise*
 - *Walk away from the party before the first drink.*
- *Determine to bail on a situation before it gets crazy.*
 - *Internet*
 - *Television*
 - *Conversations*
 - *Compromise.*
- ***Live Like Sin is Not Your Friend.***
 - *Sin wants to use you.*
- ***Let The Grace Of God Flood Your Life***
 - *God wants you to be free from sin. It is possible.*
 - *Seek God more than anything else.*
 - *Read His word.*
 - *Plug into Life Groups.*

- ***Although your faith is personal, it was never meant to be private.***

- **We**
 - *Can you imagine how much better your life will be when you build some guardrails in your life?*

 - *How different will this church be when everyone steps up to the plate to live free from sin?*

 - *As we worship this morning, start building the guardrails in your life.*
 - *Repent of any sins that you have been playing around with.*
 - *Ask God to help you hate sin.*
 - *Allow God's grace to flood your life.*